### MANGAVE

P L A

INTERVIEW WITH RACECAR DRIVER

CHAD RICKER

10 GREATEST Rock Star

Owned Bars & Restaurants

THE NORTH

GUITAR DRIVEN HARD ROCK BAND from Los Angeles

INTERVIEW WITH
TONY
DESIERE
of YAHOO!
SPORTS
PADIO

A B E S

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2015

Playbabe of the Month

KELLY

A Trip Inside the 'Musical Mind' of

BLACK OXYGEN'S Front Man DAVID LYLE





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SID SIDDIQUI
CEO / Editor-in-Chief

DUSTY GARON

Art Director

BEN WAGNER
Web Director

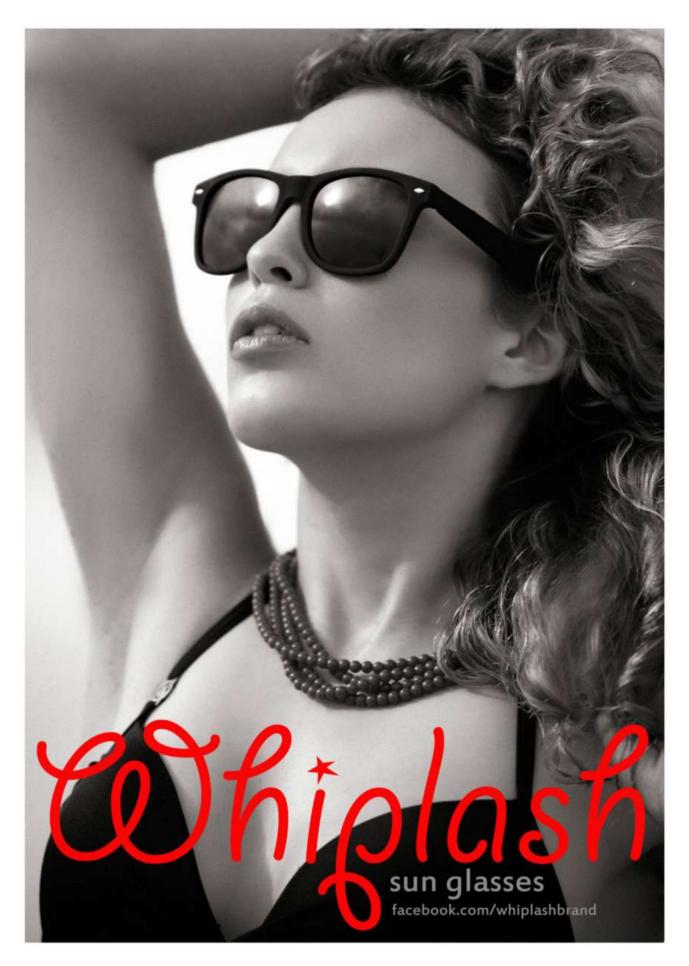
### **Contributing Photographers**

ADAM KING
BEN WAGNER
CHRIS RAMIREZ
CRAIG SPRATT
DAVID GILLESPIE
JAMIE SAVEAL
JAY ABLAH
JASON PARKER
JERRY STEELE
KEVINMAX PHOTOGRAPHY
RICHARD JULIO
SHERMAN ORENDORF
W LAWRENCE STEVENS

### **Editorial**

MICHELLE SPORTS X
DAVID GRANT

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### interview with THE NORTH

BY MICHELLE SPORTS X



ever one to pass up the opportunity to hear new music, I was more than happy to share some songs by this band on my midnight radio program.

MSX~ How did you first form your band? ie. give back story of who knew who, and Origin of band, including how you came up with name etc..

**THENORTHLA** ~ The North started its formation about 5 years ago. Dennis (Bass) and Ted (Drums) were already playing together when they were introduced to Carlyle (Guitar) by a mutual friend. We started writing songs and were on the prowl for a singer. We had a lot of interesting candidates, and it took us two years to find Ryan. When we heard his demos we were instantly hooked and hoped he'd be our guy. We started booking shows and gaining a following. A year later we completed our album Disengage.

**MSX** ~ What inspires you to keep going, and where you do you want to see your band in a year, and five years time?

**THENORTHLA** ~ We inspire each other. The fact we get along and have the same common goal, to write good songs, is what keep us inspired. In a year to five years we just plan to keep writing music. Sure fame and fortune is

a twinkle in our eye, but it's not the goal. The goal is to keep doing what we're doing.

**MSX** ~ Do you have any passions outside of music that you find time for? [ can be one or all band members sharing about this ]

**THENORTHLA** ~ Music is the driving force. We have hobbies and interests: reading, bodybuilding, writing, drinking, cosplay, but nothing else that is a true passion per se.

**MSX** ~ What do you think is the biggest problem with trying to get new music out there to the public? Do you find your use social media to disseminate your music?

THENORTHLA ~ The biggest problem is also the biggest help. Social media is paradoxical because it's so saturated, it's a struggle to get noticed. But at the same time if used properly it's like a zombie virus, or like being bitten by a vampire, you know. One friend tells a friend who tells a friend and so on until we're all infected. So far we feel pretty infectious. I mean our logo is a gasmask after all.

**MSX** ~ What are your favorite songs that you've written / performed so far?

**THENORTHLA** ~ We're working on an EP and those may be our favorite songs. We've performed all of them and they're unique compared to the sound of Disengage. The EP is a full band collaboration whereas most of Disengage was piecemeal. Not that a full band collab is always a better way to write music, but it's cool to hear how the band has grown together. Plus the EP is new, and new music is always cool.

MSX ~ Which artists do you believe most inspired you?

**THENORTHLA** ~ Artists who believe in their music and don't conform to putting it in boxes are the ones we admire. Music is a product, but it's also an art form. We don't make music because it's what someone else thinks is cool or hip, and we don't particularly admire those who do. Musicians who are moved by their own music are the ones who move us.

**MSX** ~ Describe typical night from a fan's perspective. In other words what do you think the fans see when they are watching you perform and why do they keep coming back?

**THENORTHLA** ~ I don't know exactly what our fans see. That's a hard question to answer. We know what we see, and it's a crowded room having a great time. I guess we're just a part of that crowd because we're having a great time too. Our shows are a party and we're just a handful of cavemen banging on wood, making noise, and the venue just happens to be our cave for the night. We want the crowd to be as rowdy as we are with a drink in hand of course. They're a part of the show too. That's why they keep coming back. We're family.

**MSX** ~ Boxers or briefs?

**THENORTHLA** ~ Freeballing. You can tell from our plumbers' cracks.

MSX ~ What makes you smile?

**THENORTHLA** ~ A good song, a terrible joke, BBQ, Arty Vegas, prank phone calls, smelly farts, the list goes on.

MSX ~ What do you think are greatest pickup lines to use and/or do you hear when you're in a bar scene?

BE SURE TO FOLLOW @THENORTHLA ON TWITTER AND GET TO KNOW THE GUYS FROM THE BAND!

**THENORTHLA** ~ "Hey, I'm in the band" doesn't work. There's not really a line. You just need to assess the situation and use appropriate witty banter. Yelling "HEY!" across a room has proven to be as advantageous as not. It's all based on the circumstance, so remember, assess the surroundings and apply wit appropriately.

**MSX** ~ What articles do you most like to read [ sports, cars, music, etc., when it comes to men's mags ]

**THENORTHLA** ~ Across the board music and sports mags are read the most. I don't think any of us sophisticates have picked up a National Geographic since elementary school.



### Mancave Babe

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## 10 GREATEST ROCK STAR OWNED BARS RESTAURANTS

### BY DAVID GRANT

f sex, drugs and rock n' roll is your mantra then rock bars are appealing, especially establishments owned by rock stars. That's double the sex, drugs...well, you get the picture. Music is a big part of the bar/club experience so it's only natural that a "rock" bar with celebrity musicians as owners should feel the influence of the band/individual involved. No, we're not talking about Hard Rock Café. We're talking about actual rock joints, where the cheeseburger isn't the reason to go and it's okay to smoke a joint at your table. Okay, that's not true – everyone knows you need to be in a corner booth to get your smoke on!

### 10. CABO WABO CANTINA (SAMMY HAGAR)

Cabo Wabo has four locations: Cabo San Lucas Mexico, Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe and Hollywood. It's both a bar and restaurant with the drink of choice, Sammy Hagar's personal brand of tequila. In Vegas you will find a rock and roll charged atmosphere that combines kick-back attitude, energy of the Strip and of course, tequila. However, if you really want to experience Cabo Wabo Cantina you need to go to San Lucas where there is live music daily at the Cantina and the tequila flows all the way up to the rooftop. Influenced by the laid-back Cabo Wabo way of life, Hagar has created a relaxing, fun bar where the rock n' roll never stops and although never encouraged after drinking tequila, are able to drive 55mph.

### 9. THE STUDY AND OCTAGON BAR AT CLARENCE HOTEL (U2)

Bono and the Edge own the Clarence Hotel in Dublin, Ireland which has multiple restaurants as well as The Study and Octagon Bar. The Octagon Bar is located in the center and is really a great place to meet and drink. You will notice the Art Deco floor and original trimmings surrounding the bar, there is also an open fireplace where you can cozy on up to with a snifter of brandy. There is a party vibe, but it's more controlled, for the more sophisticated patrons (read: older) of Temple Bar. For the area, the hotel and bars are expensive, but "hello", have you ever purchased U2 tickets? If you want good tickets you may need to sell your car. A couple extra dollars for the "cool" ambiance and the chance that Bono could walk in at any moment shouldn't break you.

### 8. SNITCH (SCOTT WEILAND, DUFF MCKAGAN, BRETT SCALLIONS)

This New York City bar has long since closed, but when Snitch opened in 2004 it had the best of intentions with lots of rock and roll buzz. Initially known as the "Velvet Revolver Bar" due to Scott Weiland and Duff McKagan's minority ownership roles, Snitch was a true rock joint with old-school night club booths, kamikaze shot specials and a "don't tell" smoking policy (smoking already banned in bars at the time). The first few months were epic, featuring dropin performances by Velvet Revolver and Marilyn Manson. Unfortunately, Weiland, McKagan and Scallions pulled out after 6

months realizing the management was not going to keep up the place. They were right. Two years later the once promising new rock club was a shell of itself, just another dive bar in Chelsea. Rumor has it even the Kamikaze shot specials went away which is obviously not acceptable. Snitch would close shortly after that.

### 7. SLIDEBAR (JEREMY POPOFF)

Promising great food, great music and great company, Slidebar was opened in 2006 by Jeremy Popoff of Lit. Slidebar is dedicated to the musicians right outside of L.A. and their memorabilia covers the walls in honor of these bands and individuals. Hungry? In addition to a full bar you can order The Cowboy from Hell Burger, named for Pantera guitarist "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott and uses Dime's secret barbeque sauce. All walks of life are welcomed, just be sure to check the attitude with your leather jacket, at the door.

### 6. CATHOUSE (TAIME DOWNE)

In the eighties, the Cathouse was where the glam bands and groupies hung out. After all, this was Taime Downe's place and if it was good enough for the lead singer of Faster Pussycat then it was good for anyone with big hair and high heels. Riki Rachtman, rock DJ and the eventual MTV Headbangers Ball host, was also a partner so not only was this a place to be, but a place to schmooze as well. The bar stayed open for 6 years (eventually killed off by grunge movement), but at the time it was ground zero for sex, drugs and rock n' roll. Regulars included members of L.A. Guns, Guns N' Roses and

Bang Tango. Since, the Cathouse has reopened to some success, but nothing like the eighties. Now there are at best mullet haircuts and karaoke contests. Damn you, grunge movement!

### 5. ROCK AND BREWS (GENE SIMMONS, PAUL STANLEY)

This chain restaurant is owned by Dave Furano (promoter), Bill Graham (tour manager) and Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley of KISS. With five locations and planned future expansions, I am still shocked Simmons never found a way to incorporate KISS into the name of this establishment. The idea behind this restaurant/bar is to create a backstage experience for families, similar to the way Furano and Graham have done so for KISS as well as the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan and the Grateful Dead while on the road. There are several beers available and the walls are covered with memorabilia. I'm assuming each location contains a Simmons guitar, but don't look directly at it (you may be charged a dollar for doing so).

### 4. FLEETWOOD'S (MICK FLEETWOOD)

If you are playing which one doesn't belong with the others, then you might choose this one. Of course, you really need to catch up on your rock history, because few bands have gone through the true rock lifestyle as the members of Fleetwood Mac did. Mick Fleetwood's restaurant and bar, aptly named Fleetwood's, combines food and rock music. Located in Maui, it's an ideal place to enjoy friends and watch live entertainment in a laid back atmosphere, leaving the drama behind, or better yet, back in the seventies.

### 3. JBJ SOUL KITCHEN (JON BON JOVI)

Not all rock partnerships are about music and tequila — well at least not this one. This one isn't even a bar; however, in the name of charity we won't hold that against Jon Bon Jovi. JBJ Soul Kitchen in Red Bank, New Jersey is where you pay for your meal via donation. The idea is that everyone gets a meal. How does it work? Suggested price is \$10 and if you can pay more you are essentially paying for someone that can't afford a meal of their own. The restaurant has been in operation for several years now and has served countless meals to those in need.

### 2. ALICE COOPERSTOWN (ALICE COOPER)

There are two Alice Coopers. First there is "Alice", the musician who creates a theatre of sorts during his live performances. He is into horror and shock (loves snakes) and is a very big part of rock and roll history. Alice Cooper is a regular dude that just looks like a rock star. He is really into sports, especially golf. The restaurant, located in Phoenix, Arizona, is more based on the latter version of Cooper, but you still see the "Alice" influence. Here you will find lots of rock memorabilia and a patio with a full bar. Live music is booked often and there is even a souvenir shop, but unfortunately no live snakes are sold. The best part of Alice Cooperstown is the wait staff; they all wear "Alice" eye makeup.

### 1. FEELGOODS AND VINCE NEIL'S TATUADO CANTINA (VINCE NEIL)

Motley Crue lead singer Vince Neil owns a lot of businesses, mostly around the Las Vegas area, where he lives. Feelgoods Rock Bar & Grill initially opened on the west side of Las Vegas and then had a second location open in West Palm Beach. The layout was total rock club complete with a giant stage, huge bar and cages for girls to dance in. I'm pretty sure Neil's club wasn't zoned as a rock n' roll strip club, but yeah, you get the picture... Once I went to check it out and there were mostly bikers there (half of the parking lot is for motorcycles) drinking along with two guys fully dressed in KISS garb. Not playing, just chilling in seats, drinking Bud Lights. On stage was a pretty kick-ass band and although that particular night wasn't packed, you could see the layout and attitude could produce electrified nights of dirty rock chaos.

A few years ago Vince would exit the Feelgoods business, but there is a Hollywood ending. The bar is still there and continues to be an excellent rock bar named Count's Vamp'd Rock Bar & Grill. As for Neil, well he is doing just fine. In addition to his many other businesses (and Motley Crue) he has opened another bar, Vince Neil's Tatuado Cantina at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino. Here you can order up a "Feelgood Rita" and drink Neil's signature tequila, Tatuado Tequila.



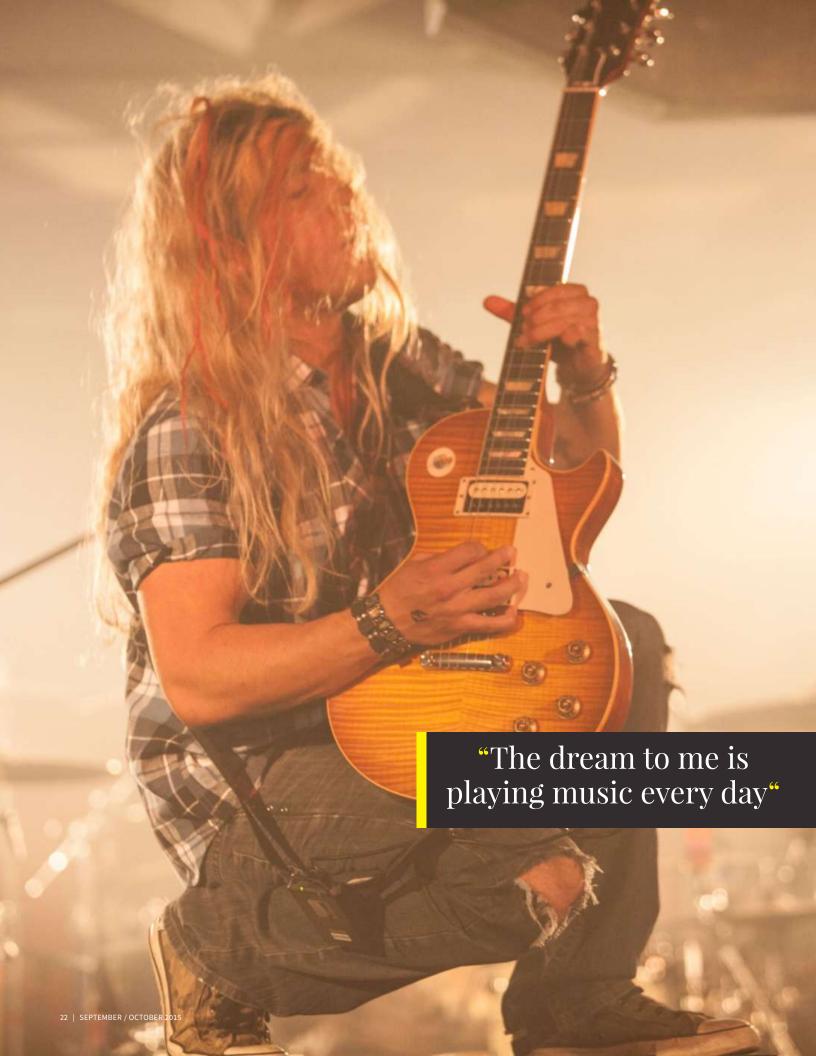


## Mancave Babe A A A A A A

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JERRY STEELE







## A Trip Inside the 'Musical Mind' of BLACK OXYGEN'S TRONT MAN DAVID LYLE

By Michelle Sports X

he day I got the call to interview David Lyle, of Black Oxygen, was not unlike any other day, in that I seemed to be knee deep in projects that were or felt as though they were, all supposed to be finished the day prior. Something in the email that contained David's contact info seemed to cause me to move this project to the top of my list. Could have been, "If you would just reach out to him today, Michelle, and let him know you'll be calling," might have done it. Of course, it was no problem to call him to let him know that I would be calling soon to schedule an interview, so I took a screenshot of the contact info, and set out to wherever it was I was supposed to have been hours prior.

When I dialed the number, I was unsure if I would be reaching David himself, but I surmised I would most likely be connected to his PA or manager. I mean he's a rock star. So I was expecting one of those, "Have my people call your people . . ." calls. I would soon find how, how wrong I was.

Within a short time, I pulled over from where I was heading and dialed David's number. The gentleman's voice that answered the phone sounded subdued and peaceful. Almost immediately, I was aware I was thinking that he sounded like an artist. Not that I knew for sure it was he, but I sort of had a feeling it was the minute I heard him say, "Hello." "Hi, is this David, this is Michelle. I'm calling to arrange an interview for Mancave PB." "Yes, this is David. Okay, well I will be able to talk in ten minutes," he said. "Okay, I would call you then, but I just need to take care of a few things," I said." David told me to take my time, and call him when I was ready. After I hung up, I found myself wondering what just happened. Not only did scheduling my interview with David Lyle, get put to the top of my priority list earlier that morning but now the interview was about to take place that afternoon. I had less than 'no time' to prepare, and do my homework as to who he was, what he had accomplished, and all that pre-interview stuff that any self-respecting writer would have done.

That's not my style; I don't interview people I know nothing about. How on earth did this just happen? Yet, as much as I would have liked to be more prepared, there was no way that I was going to allow the opportunity to talk with him that afternoon pass by. I mean he's a rock star.

What does that mean exactly? To be a rock star... Do we apply certain stereotypes without even realizing it, to rock stars? Why was I so surprised that David Lyle, was so respectful and considerate, and treating me like a human being? He was, by the way, doing exactly that. He was polite, considerate of my time, and personable. At the risk of sounding cliché, he had me at 'Hello.' Kindness means so much

to me, and David was kind. It was that kindness that opened the initial door to what would ultimately lead to a magnificent journey deep within his mind.

Before I continue on, let me just clarify, its not that I did not know who David Lyle or Black Oxygen was when I was told I was tapped to interview him. As a matter of fact, I not only heard of the band, I had connected with the band's manager a few years prior via mutual friends who had worked at a radio station in Las Vegas. Although I was supposed to see Black Oxygen perform at a live performance a few years back, something happened and I was not able to attend the show. However, I had listened to the music and become a fan. So fast forward to now, when I was told I would be interviewing David Lyle, it was easy to recall when I was first introduced to the band's music, and I remembered learning that David's brother Nick was the band's drummer and a powerful inspiration to David's musical journey. I also remembered my respect for the depth of the lyrics, as well as my respect for those with a desire and ability to dare to dream.

So here we were, just a short time after our initial exchange on the phone, and I was about to learn so much more about the man who has been busy building a solid foundation at the core of a very powerful dream. That dream by the way, is one that many might believe no longer exists, buried somewhere and lost forever. That dream, many have called The American Dream.

Before I share that which I learned about David, and his magnificent musical mind, let me take a moment to share with you about the band.

The American rock band known as Black Oxygen was formed in Kansas City, Missouri. The American Dream, the band's first debut album was released on March 6, 2012. If you are into reading reviews, you can find the 'rundown' of the album that was shared by Brian Campbell, published at Starpulse on May 30th 2012. To sum it up, Brian, seemed more than pleased with this band's debut performance, and suggested the album/ band be filed under 'Balls-Out Rock.' Suggesting the band had managed to provide a stellar debut album, and complimenting the band's 'six-string assets' complete with 'unstoppable riffs that combine elements of classic rock and grunge with a modern flare,' Campbell, suggested the band was well on its way to taking it to the limit, and achieving all out success. The American Dream and Take it to the Limit, two singles released off of the debut album made a respectable showing on music industry charts.

David Lyle is a key piece to the fundamental foundation of Black Oxygen. When asked to share about the formation of the band, and his earliest involving music, he shared that he has always had a strong passion for music. In fact, he feels he was born with an innate desire to play. During the time we talked he shared about his memories of his childhood, wherein he grew up around rock music. He shared that both Rock and Rap were key genres in his earlier years, and still are to this day.

When David was just 13, when he was asked to help clean out his grandfather's basement, and although he was not too keen on having to complete the chore, this task would ultimately lead him to discover a 1968 Yamaha Acoustic guitar that his grandfather bought from a man years back. Inspired by Slash, of the popular music band, Guns 'N Roses, whom he had seen perform on television, proved to compound his innate abilities. His natural ability was only enhanced when he would intertwine that which he learned by watching others greats he respected perform.

Soon others would learn about David's amazing talent. He would soon win an award, for 'Outstanding Guitarist' of the mid-US region by Banzai Magazine. While he was in the 7th and 8th grade, he would be asked to help other students become inspired by music. David would be asked to share his talent with fellow students, and eventually David's talents would lead him to form the band, Black Oxygen. Accompanying David is his brother Nick. Nick Lyle is a talented solid strong drummer and together they make up the band's core signature sound with David's unique songwriting abilities.

"We grew up playing all over at pretty much every club you can think of in Kansas City. We were the youngest band to participate in the Club Wars Battle of the Bands when I was 15 and we won 1st place, later down the road now after Black Oxygen's debut album release it would lead to a performance opening for KQRC's 20th Anniversary 2012 Rockfest in Kansas City. With an attendance of over 65K, the band pulled off an amazing performance, which happened to get noticed by none other than Sevendust's leading man, Lajon Witherspoon which led the band to do a number of tour dates with Sevendust that

Throughout our conversation, David was so positive and determined. He talked about his respect for music and some of his favorite heroes in rock n' roll he has been able to meet on his journey and became friends with. In addition, he described meeting other key people within the music industry who were all instrumental in the band's success and his individual success. Eventually, Black Oxygen would make a move from their hometown Kansas City and to relocate the band living in Los Angeles, CA. I asked David about a time when he remembered first singing for the band and what inspired him to do so, he mentioned "he remembers being in the studio in West Hollywood with actor/musician Jamie Foxx when he was 18 playing new songs he had written on his guitar and began humming a melody and Jamie Foxx mentioned, boy you can sing!" He said, "I feel that's maybe what really inspired me to do so, at that point on I was singing."

As David continued to describe the journey, he brought up performing with such acts as Pop Evil, EverClear and Shinedown. [I've seen all of these bands, by the way! I've not only listened but also absorbed their music, and used the lyrics to help teach my students prepare for SAT tests. Such amazing talent, such amazing minds! ]

It occurred to me, as I was doing the write up that as I listened to David describe his journey, what was so telling about him, was his capacity for learning, and a desire to reach beyond any perceived limitations. In fact, I'm not so sure he ever believed he had any limitations, and if so he was going to believe in the power to overcome and move forward, beyond any obstacles that might be in his way. He is a worker, a thinker and a doer. Any success the band has, it has earned and David is proud of his roots where he came from growing up in Kansas City and where he has been able to venture thus far.

So what about his mind? What's goes into the

creation of a song? How does he write and from where does he draw his inspiration?

According to David, the truth of the matter, is that more than any other inspiration in this world, it is the fans. The fans that come out to the shows, their feedback on the bands social media which converse and exchange with him about their appreciation for the band.

As far as what thoughts go through his mind when he's writing, here's what David shared:

"When I write music I don't sit down and make myself write a song. I never force it. I feel the best things in life all around generally come naturally as meant to be. I could be driving down the road, or doing anything and hear the music in my mind of the full band orchestra of the vision sound that comes to me naturally then when those moments happen I grab my guitar, and make what I hear come to life. When the songs come to me I have a very good idea what they will sound like in the end based on the vision. Lyrically, all the music I write is real. It's on all my life experiences. Music is a way for me to release everything that's on in my mind, when we've been on tour, fans message there are certain songs that they mention help them in life and that means a lot to me. As an artist I always like to be real to my music and fans and stand strong as a leader for what I believe in over anything is the music. I just always enjoy following my musical dreams and the ride it takes me on with my brother Nick. It always takes me to wonderful, unexpected places to always keep growing as an artist, human being, and with the band."

As far as David's dream, he shared this:

"The dream to me is playing music every day, being happy and real to the music always and pursuing to work hard every day to reach the next level at this musical game."

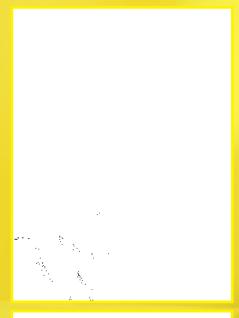


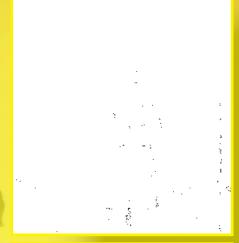
Listening to David share about his dream, reminded me how a few years ago, I was so inspired by a song by Sevendust, that I too realized how strongly music could serve as fuel to propel us to reach beyond our perceived limits. Knowing that David is so moved by those he too inspires is a telltale sign of who he is at the center. Of course, it's impossible for all fans to know just how deeply they inspire artists. Then again, David managed to leave a message to all of his fans via the band's site. Just before the beginning of the new song, "I'm Not Afraid," David is asked to share one thing he would say to his fans, if there were only one thing. I would tell you what he shared but it's not like me to be a 'spoiler' and it's worth the trip. You'll find the video, "I'm Not Afraid" at www.blackoxygenmusic.com. There you will also find more about David, and the band. There you'll also learn more about the band's recent experience with John Varvatos Stuart House benefit, as well as, the band's recent contribution to the students of Carlos Santana Arts Academy in CA.

There was so much to talk about, and one thing lead to another and soon it was time to say 'Good-Bye.' There were so many questions I would have liked to ask, and I found myself looking forward to the next time I would be on tap to interview this intelligent and gifted musician, about his songs, his journey and the ultimate ride as he continues to follow The American Dream.

Black Oxygen has come a long way since its debut album. Be sure to pick up Black Oxygen sophomore album "Beating Time" released in stores May 6th, 2014 that will take you on a musical ride start to finish. Song favorites to check out on this album include: 'Livin the Life' (reached top rock charts in industry), "Take A Breath", "Beating Time", "As Time Ticks By" and "I'm Not Afraid." You can also check out the bands special feat. collab single track releases in online stores with rap artists Kutt Calhoun and Irv Da Phenom. From 2012 to 2014 the band has toured and performed over 150 shows in the USA. The band is currently working on their third album in Orlando, FL with Producer Brett Hestla. They have 1 special show lined up for fans on August 1st on the Sunset Strip in CA at the legendary Whisky A Go-Go be sure to get your tickets early! You can follow Black Oxygen on all these following social media outlets (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter) for music, music videos, updates, shows and more..

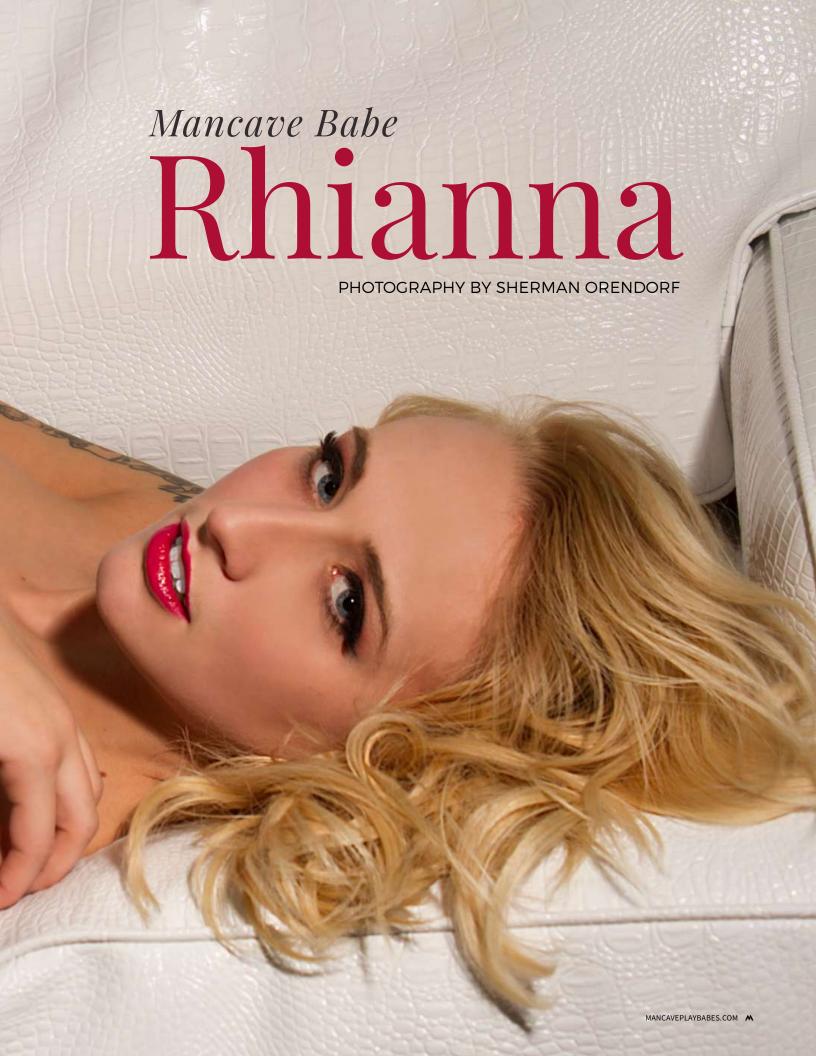
One thing that stands about David, as he shares about the band's formation and his own personal development is his gratitude for those within the music industry and those who took the time to see the shows. David is a true musician deep within his heart, mind and soul.





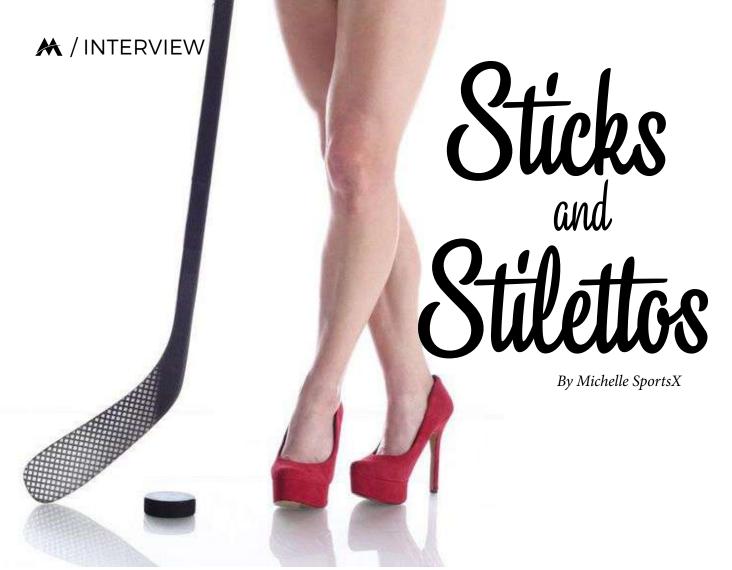












t's not the first time we've seen a very sexy 'hockey mom' sporting some very some very sexy shoes. Meet the founder of SticksandStilettos.com. It was my pleasure to chat with Annice Reaves to learn all about her sporting news, and how she's 'amping' it up on the ice!

MSX ~ Please share with me a little bit about yourself, why you love hockey, and how you got involved with the initiative 'Sticks and Stilettos.

AHR ~ my son played when he was young, until his injury the summer of his senior year. We were highly involved in the local team The Fort Worth Fire, which then turned into The Fort Worth Brahamas, which now is a very high ranked junior team. We also followed the Dallas Stars, which is a NHL team. Hockey to mea is exciting, and extremely family orientated, whether it is the team or the actual families of the players. Sticks and Stilettos came about after years of following hockey players and teams, getting to know players, coaches and staff of different teams, players soon began to ask if I would help them find places to play.

Finally, about 2 years ago, I decided to turn it into a business. The name came to me, as I needed something catchy to differentiate me from other companies in this male dominated business. Besides my talent, expertise and contacts I needed something to draw clients to my company. I'm pretty sure most men love women in a sexy pair of stilettos.

MSX ~ so you funded a team last year? What was that like and how would you describe the experience?

AHR  $\sim$  Yes, I funded a minor league team in 2014. It was an amazing but very difficult adventure. We made it the through the season which enabled the players that choose to stay complete a full season of stats and playing time. If I had of folded, many players would have not had the opportunity to play at all during the 2014 season

MSX ~ what were some of the obstacles you faced last year during the time you were managing Steel City Warriors?

AHR  $\sim$  No sponsors, attendance, community backing and worst off little to no league

support. I always felt they wanted us to fold. I jumped into the middle of the ocean and treaded the waters as best I could to survive.

MSX ~ would you share with me about the pro leagues in hockey? It's a bit confusing so I would want you to share in laymen's terms about the teams are underneath the NHL, and which leagues you are involved with?

AHR ~ The NHL (The Show) is the Top of the ladder. AHL (American Hockey League), step below the NHL and where many players from the draft end up until they get their opportunity to play in the show. ECHL -(East Coast Hockey League) third tier of the ladder. Players that never mad the draft, where not able to sustain in the AHL many times end up at this level. I think of this for the younger players there steeping stone to The Show. All AHL and ECHL teams are affiliated with an NHL team. Many players from both the Echl and AHL are called up to the next level if there is an injury, trade or need an extra player. It is a players dream to be called up to the Show. In Sept, we should be announcing our new franchise in the ECHL.

MSX ~ Many people would describe you as being 'very sexy' so how do you define 'very sexy' and what do you think makes you stand out in a crowd, besides your heels?

AHR ~ Self Confidence, Personality, Drive and Presence

MSX ~ Have you ever considered having an apparel line that would be in accordance with your brand, and if so what do you think it would be like?

AHR ~ Yes I do, I believe I would get in to basic merch in the beginning, then move into possibly a full clothing line that fits the Sexy, but Hockey Moms of all types.

MSX~ Tell me about where you would like to be when this article is published, assuming it makes the September issue? What about the December issue?

In Sept, we should be announcing our new tea, players will begin camps, Introducing my new clothing line and website. Begin the process of foundations, charities, sponsors, and community for the new team. In Dec, the only difference would be the team would have already been announced. Continuing all the things mentioned above.

MSX ~ what do you think about a woman making it in a guy's world?

AHR  $\sim$  It's a feeling many women are experiencing in many fields. You have to demand the respect and be able to give them the respect deserved.

In Spt, we should be announcing our new tea, players will begin camps, Introducing my new clothing line and website. Begin the process of foundations, charities, sponsors, and community for the new team. In Dec, the only difference would be the team would have already been announced. Continuing all the things mentioned above.

MSX ~ Where are you hoping to go in 2016, with your new website?

AHR  $\sim$  by 2016 full site up with agency/blog/ and merch! . Preparing to take ice in OCT 2016!!

Look out for Annice Reaves to be making her way to the top of the charts this hockey season. Be sure to follow her on Twitter @AHReaves and check out her new site SticksandStilettos. com!







## Mancave Babe PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD JULIO









# 10 REASONS IT'S TIME TO END THE SIMPSONS

By David Grant

n the late eighties few families had personal computers. There was no Internet, email or even cell phones (rich dick guy holding "the brick" doesn't count). This was when The Simpsons first entered our living rooms. Since, there have been several acts of war, the Red Sox won a World Series and we have transformed into an age of digital society. Still, The Simpsons continue to put out new episodes. All good things must come to an end; it's time to end The Simpsons.

Here are ten reasons The Simpsons should end

# 10. EVERYONE LOVES EVERYONE

When The Simpsons first started there was a cringe factor that existed. Bart was a little punk and Homer was the worst Dad ever displayed on the small screen. Moe was a major dick. We now know these characters so well we understand why they act the way they do. Moe is the lonely bartender who just wants to be loved and old man Mr. Burns just misses his teddy bear. No one would blink an eye if Side Show Bob and Bart teamed up to solve a Springfield mystery and we all feel for Nelson and his broken home. Maybe I have just gone soft. No, it's definitely The Simpsons whom have gone soft.

## 9. SAME OLD STORYLINES

How many different iterations of Lisa disappointed with her father or rough patches between Homer and Marge do we need to go through? Apparently that number is 100 episodes. Did you see the episode where Homer's drinking gets him into a bad predicament? It's hard to miss when each season has one to two storylines based on this premise. Did Bart get kicked out of school again? No way! Just kidding, of course he did, it happens each season. Don't get me started on the "old" Bart, Lisa and Millhouse episodes. The first time we were introduced to future trailer trash Bart we all laughed, the second time it was more "they're really doing this again?"

# 8. THE FAMILY GUY CROSSOVER EPISODE

The term "jumped the shark" applied to The

Simpsons many years ago, but the nail in the jump the shark coffin was the crossover episode with Family Guy. These two shows were supposed to hate each other, right? On one hand you had Family Guy, a show that took a lot of their core storyline from The Simpsons and then worse, they made it much better and funnier. Having these two shows come together was more about ratings than anything creative. They should have traded characters or at the very least traded the fighting chicken from Family Guy for the Springfield tire fire.

### 7. TREEHOUSE OF HORROR

The first couple seasons this was great, but then they kept coming and also kept getting less and less fun. The reoccurring alien guys were enjoyable for the first 10 seasons, but at some point even aliens need to retire. What has really bugged me over the years is that these episodes often don't air until well after Halloween, sometimes weeks after. This is very perplexing given there is usually one to two full weeks of sitcoms with Halloween type themes leading up the holiday. It's not like this is Easter folks, Halloween is always October 31st, you would think they could have adjusted the timing.

# 6. LAZY TRAVEL EPISODES

I realize the writers of The Simpsons are a highly regarded group, but I also believe when they were hard up for ideas they would use the "The Simpsons are going to X" as a crutch. Hey, I get it. These episodes sort of write themselves. Go to New York and there are rude people and pizza, go to Paris and there is bread, go to Brazil and there is a kidnapping...okay, that wasn't bad. About ten years ago I was looking to broaden my scope and wrote a couple of "spec" scripts which are sitcom episodes. I wrote an episode titled "The Simpsons Go to New Orleans." Yes, Homer showed his breasts. In hindsight I probably should have taken on a more ambitious story line.

# 5. THERE ARE NO CELEBRITIES LEFT TO GUEST STOP

I mean all the Presidents have appeared, just about any actor you'd want has guest starred and so many rock stars have appeared in The Simpsons there is no one left. We're not even accounting for the regular guest stars such Kelsey Grammar. Each new season they try to bring someone new in, but in the end it's just another person similar to another guest or no surprise at this point. I guess they could bring in Charlie Sheen for a very special The Simpsons get into porn episode, but that probably...oh wait, did that already happen? I'm pretty sure in Sheen's mind it has.

### 4. SOBER BARNEY STINKS

Barney Gumble, the town drunk and Homer's drinking buddy got sober and it wasn't just for one episode, it was for several seasons. Barney was one of the original characters (appeared in the first episode) and really has ridden the bell curve of the series. First, the character was popular, then too mainstream, then too politically correct and then back to where he started except no longer funny. You can add Duff Man to the list of overused characters that ended up being clichés of their cliché characters. Supposedly he was named after Guns N' Roses guitar player Duff McKagan so that's still pretty cool. Sober and unfunny Barney is not cool.

# 3. NOTHING LEFT TO MERCHANDISE

All of those episodes making fun of Krusty the Clown's endless fight to market and sell anything and everything with his name came to real life during peak times of The Simpsons. Today most of the merchandise is available as well as a major market for Simpsons collectibles. Second only to KISS (I don't believe there is a Simpsons coffin), The Simpsons tried to get every last buck out of their brand; however, I feel like they left some money on the table. First, where were officially licensed "Mr. Plow" jackets? I would have bought two of those. How about Marge monorail t-shirts? Guaranteed best sellers and really surprised they missed out on these.

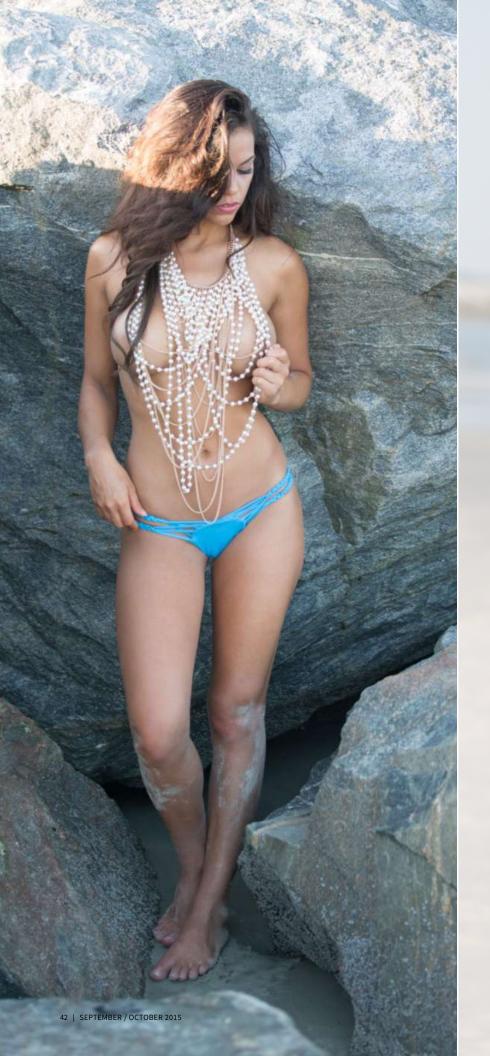
# 2. LOOKING FORWARD TO SPIN-OFF FAILURES

In 1997 there was an episode that covered this exact concept titled "Spin-off Showcase" where just about every main character had a show spun-off from











It's nice to sit down and talk with you... What do you think is a very misleading think or assume about you?

I'm Puerto Rican so I must be "crazy", I get that often.

How would you describe yourself?

I am personable, tab bit sarcastic and have a good sense of humor.

# What trait do you most like about yourself?

My freckles. Before, I didn't apperciate them. Now I look at them as a unique feature.

What do you do to stay in shape?

I have bartnded since 18 years old. When I am at work I am constantly moving, It helps keep me active and on my feet.

# What is your best asset?

how it goes.

I love my smile, when I smile at someone they always smile back, man or woman.

Is there anything that you'd like to change about yourself?

I wish I could sleep in sometimes, I am always awake by 8 am.

Name one thing you want to check off of your bucket list in the next five years. Skydiving is my next adventure on my bucket list. If I make is down alive I'll let you know

What body part/s do you find sexiest in a man?

Shoulders! Legs! Smile! Trimmed Beard! What don't I love about a man would be a better question.

What do you find to a be a turn-on in a man?

Height over 6'4 is a major turn on for me.

When going on a first date, I want to... On a first date I would want to be in my bikini. who doesn't want to see what they are working with. Jetsking, beach, boating.

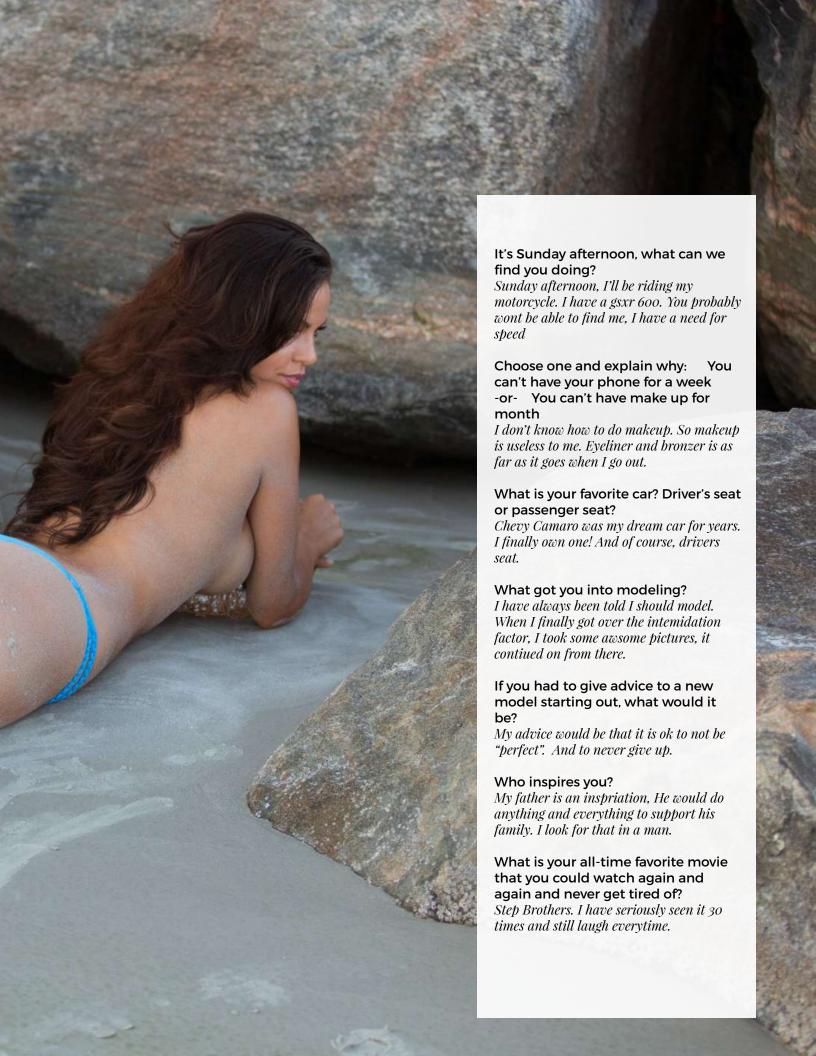






Playbabe of the Month









# CHAD RICE

By Michelle Sports X

t's not unusual for me to take some time after interviewing someone to get the write-up finished. It can take awhile for me to absorb all that I've learned about a person's journey and figure out the exact angle I want to use when I do the write-up. Sometimes I sit for hours and ponder just how I want to begin because the introduction can be so important, and I know it is the beginning of my article that might work to inspire a reader to want to keep reading. This time, more so than any other, I wanted to find the right words to get my readers to continue to read on,

because this time more than any other time, I knew that my article might actually serve as a means to help save the next girl.

Her name was Morgan Dana Harrington. She was twenty years old when she was abducted, raped and murdered. was no comfort for her parents in knowing that she likely died instantly because she probably died in excruciating horrific pain at the hands of her murderer.

Just how did I come to know about Morgan Harrington's death? I came to know about Morgan's homicide by way of

Chad Ricker when he sent me a tweet that included a photo of his racecar. In the photo that showed the hood of that car, there was a message. It was a message I chose not to

Chad Ricker is a racecar driver. It is because of him that I learned about Morgan Harrington's death, and it is because of him that I am determined to help save the next girl. He is the man I interviewed for this article, and if you have the time I would like to ask you to continue reading to learn how you too can help save the next girl.

Morgan Harrington was a fan of rock music. In fact the night she was abducted she attended a Metallica concert at the John Paul Jones arena at the University of Virginia. Sadly, Morgan never made it home after the concert. The worst thing that could have ever happened for this beautiful young lady happened. A parent's worst nightmare, the scariest thing ever, to learn your child is missing, is what Gil and Dan Harrington learned soon after the concert took place in October of 2009. In January of 2010, they learned her remains were found about ten miles from the arena.



Chad Ricker is on Twitter. His handle is @ ChadRicker31. His bio states that he is a developmental driver looking to showcase his talent on a national level. Moonshine Capital Promotions, and Back2Back UCAR Champion [in] 2013, 2014, are among his accomplishments.

Chad is not the first racecar driver who has reached out to me on Twitter to ask for my support for his racing efforts. Lots of drivers share their stories and ask me to help bring awareness to their desire to gain Yet Chad was not looking sponsorship. for me to help him find sponsors, nor was he looking for me to sponsor his racecar. No, Chad, was looking for me to share the message that's written on the hood of his car. That message being, 'Help Save the Next Girl.'

When I first got the tweet from Chad, I took a moment to look at the photo that showed the message on the hood of his racecar. I then took a look at his timeline on Twitter and noticed that I was one of many he had reached out to in an attempt to share about his initiative. He was trying to get others to notice what was written on the hood of his racecar.

> Of course I realize he had reached out to me because of my work in the sports world, and because he was reaching out to several journalists. At that time he was sharing his tweets he had no idea that I had spent most of my adult life advocating and working on helping to save the next girl in my own way. He did not know we were passionate about the same cause, even though I had not yet heard of the non-profit organization he was supporting. He knew nothing of my advocacy work to help abused children, my work as a tutor in Drug Court, my education in the field of criminal justice. Nor was

he aware of my pursuit of my Doctorate of Philosophy in Public Policy Administration/ Law. He also had no real way of knowing that I myself had been a victim of a horrible crime many years ago. Nor was it likely he thought that anyone might stop and take notice to his cause after he tweeted what seemed to be a myriad of tweets to random addresses. Yet I did take notice. How could I not? How could anyone not have a desire to help save the next girl?

Not only did I take the time to respond to Chad about his tweet, I decided to learn more. Soon after I got Chad's tweet, and noticed the message on the hood of his racecar, I sent him a direct message asking

that he verify for me the non-profit organization he was racing in honor of. Sadly, so many times there can be online scams and I wanted to be sure I took the time to be sure Chad truly was racing in honor of a legit organization, and make certain he was not a fraud. It's sad but true, that you need to be careful when someone shares about a charitable endeavor online, and I wanted to be mindful of this. So I did my homework.

Within a few moments of my reaching out to Chad, an email arrived in my inbox, with the name of the organization, Help Save the Next Girl, founded in honor of the beautiful aspiring young lady, Morgan Harrington, who had dreams of becoming a teacher. For a moment I wished that Chad was in fact a fraud, and that there was no real organization, because then Morgan's victimization would not be so real. Learning about Morgan Harrington's death, and seeing Gil and Dan Harrington copied on the email Chad sent me made it oh so very real.

All the wishing in the world was never going to bring back the lovely young lady who lost her life after she attended that Metallica concert. The only thing that can be done is work on helping to save others and that's exactly what Chad wants to do. He wants to race, for the others to learn, about how to 'Help Save the Next Girl.'

The morning I spoke with Chad I discovered he is a passionate man, who seems to want to do all he can to help give back to the community, and be there not only for his own family, but the family of Morgan Harrington.

Dan and Gil Harrington, Morgan's parents, are the founders of the non-profit organization, Help Save the Next Girl. Help Save the Next Girl is a national non-profit organization formed in honor of Morgan Dana Harrington, a 20-year-old Virginia Tech student who was abducted and murdered in 2009. The hood of Chad's racecar has no sponsor. It simply states, 'Help Save the Next Girl,' and Chad is honored to look to race for this very important cause. It is with Gil and Dan Harrington's blessing that Chad race in honor of their daughter, and their non-profit organization.

Just what was it that caused Chad to want to race in honor of Morgan Harrington rather than look to have a more traditional type of sponsor? When asked, he shared that it is his devotion to his wife, and her daughter, Kayleigh. As Chad described his love for his family, he shared that he is ever mindful that anyone of us might be able to save the next girl, and it is his love for his own family and his passion for the community that gives so much support to him that makes him want to do more.

In speaking with Chad, I learned that he has been racing for most of his life. He shared that it was his dad that caused him to develop a desire to race and since as long as he can remember he has felt a desire to follow in his dad's footsteps.

When Chad was about the age of five he was given a second hand go-cart. Eventually at the age of eleven he learned how

to drive a stick shift vehicle and at about the age of fourteen he was racing for a local speedway, Franklin County Speedway, in Callaway, Virginia. Chad would go on to enroll at the NASCAR Technical Training Program where he learned everything he needed to know about racing. Chad worked at Buck Baker Racing School as an instructor and the two main tracks he worked were Bristol Motor Speedway and Atlanta Motor. Not unlike other racecar drivers, Chad knows that racing costs money. He's worked hard over the years to gain a competitive edge, and after returning to Franklin County Speedway he ended up having nine podium finishes and would eventually gain his first championship in 2013.

Last year, despite Chad Ricker having only two wins in competition in Moonshine Capital Promotions races he had a very successful year. He dominated the MCP event at Ace Speedway on July 4th and then picked up a pair of wins at another track. Chad has a huge fan base, and a lot of supporters. Along with Gil and Dan Harrington, Moonshine Capital Promotions promoter Langley Austin is a huge supporter of Chad's racing. Last year Austin was instrumental in helping to promote Chad's racing and several sources quoted Langley as saying he thought that Chad was definitely the man to beat, and placed a bounty on him.

Chad will be looking for his third championship at the Motor Mile Speedway in Radford, VA. If he can win this year that's 3 championships at 3 different tracks which will prove his diversity at many venues.

This year Chad is racing in honor of Morgan Harrington. The logo of the non-profit organization, founded by Gil and Dan Harrington sits on the hood of his car. Why? "It's the least I can do to help share awareness and give back to the community that gives so much to me," Chad said. For his stepdaughter, Kayleigh, and in honor of all young girls, he wants to do all he can to prevent another tragedy from happening. "It's all I can do, to help save the next girl," he said.

To learn more about how you can help save the next girl, and help support the organization, Chad is racing in honor of, visit <a href="https://www.helpsavethenextgirl.com">www.helpsavethenextgirl.com</a> and follow @ChadRicker and @SavetheNextGirl on Twitter. To learn more about how you can help Chad's initiative to continue racing in honor of this organization, you are welcome to follow him @ChadRicker31 and reach out to him directly. Chad covers the expenses on his own because he never wants anyone to think that he would seek to take any money away from the organization's resources. When I suggested he have his fans consider developing a fund to offset his expenses, he immediately said, I would hate for any resources to ever go toward me, when there is a chance they could go to help save the next girl.

# THERED PRC

BLACKSTONE APPERAL Co.





# Mancave Babe JENNYSUE84 JENNYSUE84

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMIE SAVEAL







# What do you find to a be a turnon in a man?

I am attracted to strong men who seek to improve themselves. As a former military member, I love to see a man stand up for values as well as have a heart for the community.

# When going on a first date, I want to...

When I am on a first date, I want to know what motivates that person.

What is the most romantic thing a guy could do for you? I think it is romantic when a guy grills a juicy medium rare steak dinner followed up with intimacy.

# Do you prefer a traditional romantic dinner date or do you like to hang out with a guy at a bar drinking wings, shooting pool, etc.?

Although a dinner with steak is always welcome, I prefer a date where we can visit a museum, play putt-putt, go bowling, hike or shoot at a range.

I hate it when a guy...
I strongly dislike violent men.

# What is a turn-off in a guy? What makes a guy a "0"?

I dislike the self proclaimed "nice guys" who feel that they are entitled to the girl or makes excuses for not accomplishing their goals in life. I am turned on by a man who knows where he wants to go in life and is willing to apply the effort to get there.

# What advice do you have for a guy trying to pick you up or ask you out?

It depends. If a guy meets me on a dating application, I prefer some dialogue via messages or a phone call so I can get to know if he is a person I am willing to take the time to meet. If a guy meets me in person, I prefer him to be able to hold a conversation that involves current events.





It's Sunday afternoon, what can we find you doina?

After service, I get together with my family for a late lunch often followed by games.

Choose one and explain why: You can't have your phone for a week -or- You can't have make up for month

I rarely wear make-up unless it is for a special evening out or for a photo shoot. I feel most comfortable in my skin.

What is your favorite car? Driver's seat or passenger seat?

I love a deep blue, red or black colored vehicle. I don't mind being in the driver's seat, but I prefer to be in the passenger seat. I like being able to massage my partner's hand or rub on his shoulders while he is driving.

I like to collaborate with a photographer to create art.

If you had to give advice to a new model starting out, what would it be?

I feel that it helps for new models to take a deep breath and envision what it is that they want to create.

Who inspires you? If there is a famous model that inspires you, would it be and why? My mother is my greatest

inspiration because despite the challenges she has endured, she has never given up on achieving.

What is your all-time favorite movie that you could watch again and again and never get tired of?

As a fan of comic books and superheroes, I can never tire of watching Batman or Batman Returns.

especially soccer. I can be competitive, so I am always willing to play a good game, be it a sport, game or other challenge.

What is the craziest pick-up line you've ever heard or had used on you?

I've heard so many pick up lines. But I think it is a bit disturbing when a guy says, "Can I give you a kiss?" and then pulls out a half melted hershev kiss from his pocket:)

What's the most adventurous or most memorable date you've ever been on?

Some of my most memorable dates involve spending time at the beach or hiking. Fishing, hunting, racing, or sex - what order or preference? Sex, Racing (Running), Hunting (Shooting) and then fishing.

# RIDE INSANE

Michelle Sports X

As I sit here, in my kitchen, this Memorial Day Weekend, and I write the third and final segment for this magazine, I think about all that's transpired since the first day, we connected. What happened when I joined Facebook, I could never have planned, in a million years. No doubt, so many others have stories about reconnecting with childhood friends, and as my friend, Bobby used to say, "Everybody's got a story." That's so true. The story of Ride Insane, is something I cherish, and it's also something that was so unpredictable, and there are times that I think back. and wonder just what happened to cause me to lose control, in a manner that I would never have anticipated, and I did do just that, by the way. I lost all control of my senses, and rational judgment to the point, that I was desperate to save another person from himself. Of course, I'm not alone, it happens all the time. In the midst of chaos, it's likely impossible to see clearly, but truly I can, plain as day, see clearly now.

When my friend called me, and I use the term, friend in a manner that is sort of abstract I suppose, because friends are supposed to be there for one another, and in truth, as much as I would like to fool myself, and think that my friend was there for me, the reality is, I was there for him. It was me, who was always there, and he who always wanted to be, in a manner that was sad really. What's even sadder I suppose is how desperately I held on.

When Bobby came out of the coma, and by the way Bobby's mom would rather I not use his name, but I just can't think of any other name to use at this point, and so I suppose I should come up with one, for the day the movies hits the big screen. Something tells me I've got time, to think about it. Anyway, when he came out of the coma, and called me, he was so full of life. He was inspired

and happy that he had not done drugs in so long. As I said, I did not have the heart to tell him, it's likely impossible to do drugs, when you're comatose.

Bobby wanted me to help him stay clean. He trusted me, and he let everyone know that. He was so happy to have someone who accepted him; at least that's what he said to me, for the way he was. Of course, I accepted him, but then again I lived far enough away that I did not think his behavior would hurt me, or my life. Yet, Bobby's post coma personality was different, so he said. He was going to be a new man, and even though he felt somewhat ashamed for having been so dreadfully consumed with his drug of choice, which by the way was meth, he was convinced he would become a new man. So he wanted me to help him, and he would call me every day. He would tell me how he was healing, and that he was on medication. He would talk with me for hours, and he would listen to me share about what was going on in my life. During this time, we became very close. We were not romantic, and although we would joke about one day getting married, we both knew it was just a fantasy. It was not as though we ever really expected a storybook ending, or did we?

While Bobby was busy recovering from the coma, he would play poker. One day he shared that he was doing his best to stay away from his former friends whom although he missed, he knew were still doing drugs, and would likely cause him to want to venture down that path. Bobby wanted to stay clean. He really did. Me, I was contemplating going back to school to focus on my doctorate degree. I had little time for any romantic relationship, and Bobby was all I needed, really. I was happy to have a friend and I truly loved our connection. Yet, eventually six months had passed since my relationship with



my ex-boyfriend had ended, and eventually other people whom I had connected with asked me out, on Facebook. One day, someone I had gone to high school with invited me to visit him in Florida, and I decided I would go. To my surprise, Bobby, flipped out in what appeared to be a jealous rage. He was angry when I told him I had gone on a date, and he said he was doing everything he could to fix his life so that he could one day take me on a proper date. He asked me to give him a year, and in the interim, he wanted me to come to Atlanta to see him. I was surprised. really. I never thought he had any intentions of dating me, and in a strange sort of way, I was honored but I was also confused. We were friends, and there was a part of me that liked it that way. I would never think to date someone who had a history of doing drugs, at least not knowingly, but Bobby was committed to being clean, and I thought that it would be fine to go out with him, if he was going to turn his life around. So I looked into doing my residency in Atlanta, and made arrangements to meet him. It would

# 



have been the first time I would be seeing him, since we were kids, and I have to admit I was excited. The bond we shared was getting stronger, and I was so happy he was doing so well, after having such a near death experience.

I made arrangements to travel to Atlanta in April, and about a week prior I sent a text to Bobby, telling him something about my upcoming trip. He reacted with anger, and all the sudden he seemed to change. I was unsure what happened to cause him to be so angry, but he would eventually explain that he was sleeping and that it was just my text message had woken him up. Bobby's demeanor seemed to be getting angrier and he seemed frustrated. He was frustrated that he was unable to find meaningful work, and he would constantly tell me that he felt like a loser. I would do my best to be uplifting and ask him to hold on. As I've always been, I would try to shed light on the reality that he had almost died, and that he should be so grateful at his second chance of life. Yet something seemed to be eating at him, and he was just so sad. Gone was the man whom had called me that night, so elated and full of life, upon realizing he had just survived a near death experience that had left him in a coma for six weeks.

One night I woke up and found that Bobby had shared a song with me. It was a song I had not ever heard of by the band, Stone Sour. The name of the song is Zzyzx Road, and if you've ever heard the song, you'll know why it scared me so. It was all I could do, not to break down, and cry at the thought that my friend wanted to give up. Yet, his message was so clear. He was tired.

Soon Bobby would share songs with me often. He would, I am convinced of it, use music to communicate. As much as I loved music, I had

never been a fan of Heavy Metal to the point that I absorbed the lyrics and the songs. Yet, all that changed, when I got the emails with the songs from Bobby, as they contained his thoughts and expressions, in a way that was so telling. Bobby was using songs, to communicate his feelings. Things he could not say would be revealed in the songs he shared. He loved music, and he was a huge fan of the band Stone Sour. At the time, I'm not even sure I had heard of them, except that they might have been in the lineup at one of the music festivals I'd been to, but after hearing the songs, Bobby shared, the band soon became one of my favorites. Not only did I get to know more about Bobby through the music he shared, I also got to know so much more about myself. I realized that I had been so closed to so many genres of music, and allowed stereotypes to cause me to shy away from certain bands. I found myself listening to all different songs, and embracing the intelligent composition, and the magnificent intelligence of the song writing.

Soon, I would be on my way to Atlanta, and meet up with my childhood friend whom was struggling to regain his will to live. I would carry with me a poem that was etched in glass, one that Bobby had written, and one that I would have published for him. I found him to be brilliant in a way that was so intriguing and my desire for him to get on the right path, so that we could possibly have more than a platonic relationship was becoming something that seemed apparent to us both. It was his promise of a future that would be filled with the ending where we would both be able to be ourselves, that I think I found most refreshing, yet in truth the reality of a romantic relationship with him, was always something sort of a fantasy. It was easy to imagine it, since we were living miles apart, and nothing real was in our way.



When I got to Atlanta, Bobby seemed the same he was when we were kids. We had the best time going to lunch, and just talking about our childhood memories. We also planned to go to concerts, but Bobby seemed uncomfortable around me. He made it clear that he wanted nothing to do with me romantically and that he had feelings for me that were going to remain platonic. If I had to guess, I would venture to say, that the coma had messed him up a bit, and that he was using his lack of desire for me, in a manner that allowed him to maintain a distance that would give him room to remain free from accepting the reality of all that he had done to himself, but needless to say, we were not going to be anything more than friends, and perhaps it was my own ego, or my own sadness that the storybook ending was not going to happen, that caused me to be disappointed. Had I gone and fallen in love with him? Or was I in love with the storybook ending?

Well, let's just say that love can be a very powerful drug, and who knows what was happening to me. All I know, is I was caught up in this insane journey that seemed to have taken me by surprise. Content to be on a platonic level, and desirous of moving on, was what I would be. Of course, when I relayed this to Bobby, he was sort of upset again. Classic case of every time it seemed I might leave, he would want me to stay. Passive-aggressive stuff, and all that, it was a bit silly but when you're in the midst of chaos, again, who can say what love is?

For what it's worth, we were close. We were closer than any two people probably ever are, among those who have never been physically intimate and were not family by blood. We were truly close. One day, Bobby, while I was in Atlanta for my second residency, Bobby was distraught. He would sleep for days, and when I was visiting, he seemed so sad. I can still remember wanting so much to have him return to the happy state of mind that he had exhibited the day he first called me, which by

then was almost a year prior. We sat on his bed, just like we had probably done when we were kids, only perhaps back then it was a couch in his basement. I can still recall asking him, "What's wrong? What if anything would give you the will to live again?" No sooner did I ask the question, did Bobby respond, "A ZX-10R." and I have to admit, I had no idea what he meant. Hard to believe it, but there was a time, when I had no idea what a ZX-10R was. I shared with Bobby, I had no idea what that was. So he immediately went to the Internet and did a quick search. There is, the photo of the bike that was all he needed to feel alive.

Maybe I was crazy, who can say, but I thought that Bobby needed something to inspire him to want to live again. So I suggested we go to look at bikes, and even though Bobby felt he had no desire to look at bikes when he knew he could not afford one, he appeased me, and we drove to WOW Motorcycles, in Marietta, Georgia.

From the moment I saw him sit on that bike, I knew he had to have it. I can still remember what he said to me, the moment

he sat on it. I can also remember the way life returned to him, in a matter of moments. This man needed to ride. It was so clear to me, that if anything could inspire him to want to live again, it was riding. I don't have a lot of money, and for me to buy someone a motorcycle, when I was saddled with impending student loans was ludicrous. Yet, something deep inside of me told me that he needed this bike. The reason I felt so compelled to save him is a story for another day. It could have been my inability to save my sister, it could have been the way I wanted so desperately to help the students in my third grade class, some of whom like Bobby, can seem so lost and uninspired with traditional curriculum. Who knows, but there was something I wanted more than anything, and that was to see this man live again.

We left the showroom, and Bobby was a bit sad. He was obviously angry with himself for allowing himself to be in position that he was unable to buy the things he wanted, and although he grunted a bit, he still seemed to be happy that we had taken the trip.

As I prepared to leave, to head back to New York the following day, I found myself on the phone with a representative at WOW Motorcycles. I was asking her if there was any way I could arrange to put a deposit on the bike, and somehow arrange to buy it, and surprise him. Yes, I am certifiably crazy, I am sure of it, because I did not have the money to do this, but I did it anyway. Not wanting to make a purchase that Bobby, would refuse, the woman at WOW Motorcycles, promised me that she would refund my money if the gift were not accepted.

A few days later, Bobby, called me and asked me if I was crazy. I might have been. Yet, the gratitude in his voice, and the emotion he had that day he called, reminded me of the time he was so happy to be alive. For me, it was all I could hope for. He had the will to live again, and for this I would be forever grateful. That bike meant everything to Bobby, and he would soon post on his Facebook wall, "A gift from an angel."

A few months later, we would go see a concert that included the band *Sevendust* in the lineup. I would hear the band live for the first time, and I would listen to and ultimately absorb the words to the song, *Ride Insane*. That song reminded me of Bobby, and I thought about creating a website that would be in his honor, and might allow him to have a means for a legitimate job. I bought the domain RideInsane.com and set out to create t-shirts, and other merchandise for those who love to ride. The domain would attract not only those who loved to ride motorcycles, but those who loved to surf, ski, snowboard, and skateboard, all became aware of the wonderful story of the domain.

Sadly, my friend Bobby passed away before the site could be realized. Lots happened between then and now, and for so many reasons the development of the actual site, has been placed on hold. That being said, when I wrote to Kawasaki and told them about the idea, the people at Kawasaki were so inspired, and so respectful toward me. In addition, many who ride other models of bikes, including Harley Davidson, have shared their thoughts on what a great concept creating a site for those who love to ride. While the site is still in the development stage, it's been a wonderful journey for me to meet so many amazing people, and to learn so much about riding and music, both of which I believe are more powerful than any drug out there. For my friend Bobby, it was riding and music, that exceeded any drug, and I will always believe that if our education system allowed more room for students like Bobby to hone in on their creative genius instead of shunning what might not be the norm, there might be less gravitating toward meth, and more gravitating toward other positive influences, that could be what's needed to help keep them sane.







It's nice to sit down and talk with you... What do you think is a very misleading think or assume about you? I'm not stuck up, sometimes before people get to know me they can think I'm a b\*\*\*h lol I can (almost) always get along with everyone!

# How would you describe yourself?

I'd say I am very self-driven and outgoing. I have a very positive outlook on life and enjoy new adventures.

# What trait do you most like about yourself?

I love my ability to make people smile, to be able to change someone's day is an amazing feeling.

# What do you do to stay in shape?

Before I moved to Michigan in May, I absolutely loved boxing at Title Boxing Club in Wichita! Since moving, I have turned towards more outdoor running and at home workouts (my dog (Apollo) and my cat (Kilo) like to help during abs lol)

What is your best asset? *My eyes, just like my mothers.* 

# Is there anything that you'd like to change about yourself?

I just want to be a better version of myself every day.

Name one thing you want to check off of your bucket list in the next five years. Sky-diving!

What body part/s do you find sexiest in a man?

Eyes, they tell a lot about a person.

What do you find to a be a turn-on in a man?

The way they look at you with those seductive eyes lol







Choose one and explain why: X You can't have your phone for a week -or- You can't have make up for month

I don't always wear much but I love my basics too much!

# What is your favorite car? Driver's seat or passenger seat?

Toyota MR2 Spyder. I fell in love with that car when I was in grade school, we were assigned to find our dream car and to this day I still love it.

# What got you into modeling?

I had a friend ask me to go do a shoot with her, and the photographer made me feel really comfortable and had a great time!

# If you had to give advice to a new model starting out, what would it be?

Research, research, and research! Look at magazines, practice posing in the mirror, and watch behind the scene videos.

# Who inspires you? If there is a famous model that inspires you, would it be and why?

I have had so many models who have inspired me over the few years, ranging from famous models I've followed on social media, models I've met, to models who have worked with mutual photographers.

What is your all-time favorite movie that you could watch again and again and never get tired of?

August Rush, I love the story line and how their paths with their child continue to cross before each realize the connection.





Los Angeles Lakers Trade Kobe Bryant to Cleveland Cavaliers

By David Grant

ith another NBA season in the books it's important to look back at the historic season from LeBron James, carrying his hometown team on his back and coming within two games of an elusive Cleveland title. So what does James do now? We've got an idea...

Okay, so maybe this trade is more a wish or dream more than it is a prediction (but still, made you look). I'm not even fans of Bryant or LeBron James or Cleveland (especially not Cleveland), but am a NBA fan and this would be fun.

### WHY FOR LEBRON?

James is the greatest all around basketball player of all-time, that was solidified during the Finals when he single-handedly gave Golden State a run. James can do it all, but doesn't need to; he can be the distributor and number two guy, that's why he could work with Bryant.

### WHY FOR KOBE?

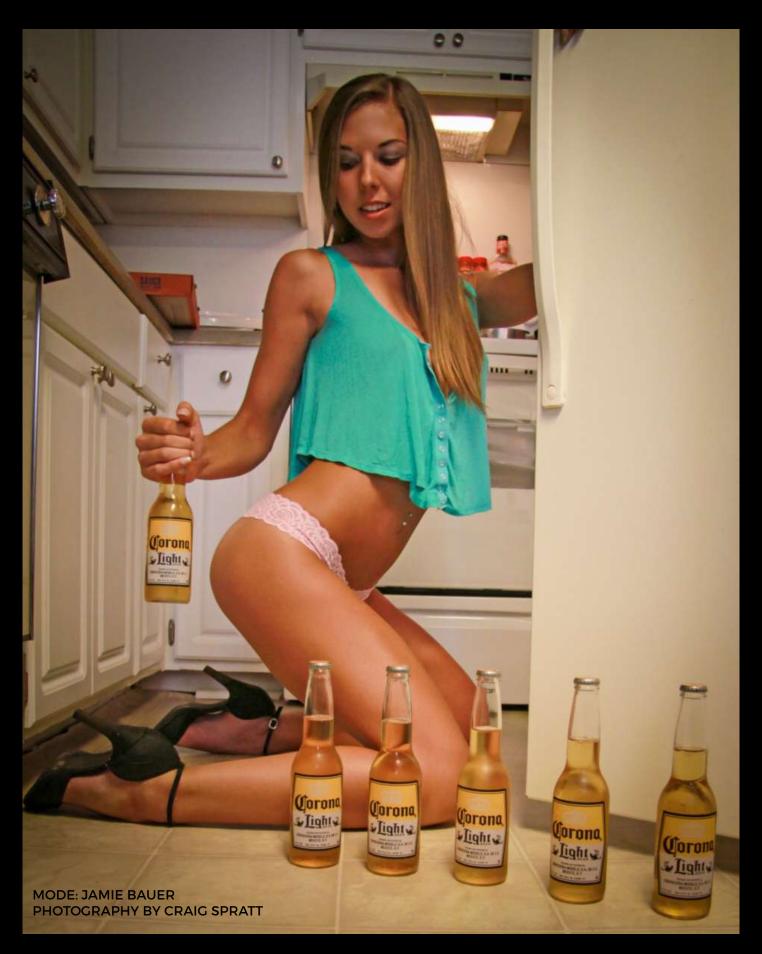
Uh, he gets to win games again? Putting Bryant in the East with James would create domination not unlike what the Miami Heat enjoyed. Plus there's the drama of how they will "mesh" together and ESPN will run 24 hour coverage of their "strained" relationship. Eventually they will figure out how to win together and rack off 20 in a row.

### WHY FOR LAKERS?

They are delusional if they think anytime during the next couple of years they will compete for a title in the West. They would actually accelerate their title aspirations by acquiring Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love or other talent. Plus, there is a huge injury risk with Kobe at this point in his career. It's possible the Lakers could be big trade winners if they traded Kobe now.

### THE X-FACTOR

The Lakers thinking they can win a title as is. Seriously that is probably the biggest sticking point. Oh, and possibly egos. You know what, scrap this whole idea, there is no way James and Bryant could ever play together.



# Mancave Babe KIMBERLY JADE PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN WAGNER

It's nice to sit down and talk with you...What do you think is a very misleading think or assume about you?

Many people assume that all I am is a model. That life is easy and handed to me because of looks. It's not... I work for everything along with going to school for nursing. I have a normal job just like everyone who doesn't model does. I have to work very hard to balance everything. If it wasn't for the normal job I wouldn't have been able to pay for school out of pocket. I am very driven, independent, and strong headed! With that said I have a very soft, loving side. Sometimes I can care too much.

What is your best asset and how do you stay in shape?

My eyes! They tell you everything about how I'm feeling. Of course I can't forget about the booty! I was born with a bubble butt. I stay active, lifting weights, cardio, and eating clean!

Name one thing you want to check off your bucket list in the next five years? I want to go to Japan with my family! A major part of my family background is Japanese and I want to learn more about it all!!!

Choose one and explain why...You can't have your phone for a week - or- You can't have make up for a month.

I'll take the no phone for a week! If it's important I will go through email or my computer. It's nice to not feel like I'm on a leash (meaning the phone). I grew up always putting at least moisturizer on my face I don't wear make-up every day but when I am at work or meeting people I like to feel my best. Even if it a little mascara and blush.







#### / INTERVIEW



## NIGHT SHIFT: AN INTERVIEW WITH TONY DESIERE, THE 'MIDNIGHT MAN' AT YAHOO! SPORTS RADIO

By Michelle Sports X

Gonna be some sweet sounds, coming down on the nightshift ~ from the song Night Shift by The Commodores

Tony Desiere is an award-winning journalist who mans the night shift over at Yahoo Sports Radio. The show airs weekdays live from 1 am to 6 am EST on the Yahoo Sports Radio mobile app and at StreamYSR. com. That basically means you can pretty much hear Tony's show from almost anywhere, if you happen to be up during those hours, and if so Tony would like to hear from you. Not only would he like to hear from you, he wants the scoop on why you're up. That's one of the things I learned during my recent interview with Tony. He's not just looking for callers to call in and talk about what he's talking about, he is interested to learn just why you're calling, and he wants his show to focus on his callers and his fans.

That's not to say that Tony's show does not have a theme, because it does. It's sports and entertainment talk show, and he's got a lot of interesting thoughts on sports and entertainment. He also has a lot of interesting guests, but truly he is looking to hear from those people who are up during the late hours, and want to share their opinions.

Just so happened that I was one of those folks who happened to be up at odd hours one night. This is not unusual as it's when I do my best writing. I noticed Tony tweeting about a topic that was trending in sports, and pretty soon I was in the midst of an engaging conversation with @TonyDRadio. That's his Twitter handle by the way, and if you're on Twitter you can follow him there. If you're not on Twitter, well you can always reach out to me anytime and I'll help you understand how to navigate those waters, if you are a bit fearful of taking the plunge.

During my exchange with Tony 'D', I happened to share that I write for *Mancave* and asked him if he wouldn't mind if I reached out to do an interview. It's my pleasure to share the following Q&A, summarizing my interview with Tony 'D'...

**MSX:** Hi Tony, Thanks so much for agreeing to share about yourself and your show for the men's mag I'm presently writing for. **TD:** No problem. Thank you for reaching out. I love all you do on Twitter, and thanks for helping me to learn the ropes with social media.

MSX: No problem. It's interesting to see someone such as yourself so receptive to having someone like me share knowledge because many radio hosts get threatened when I attempt to educate them about Twitter. TD: Not me. I do not mind admitting what I don't know, and I'm just learning how to incorporate Twitter into my show. You've been a great help, and you're really good at what you do. There was a time when I did not know how to do radio either. I used to listen to a transistor radio, and was fascinated that I could be in New Hampshire and get the local sports show in Cleveland. I mean I was just fascinated by

it all. Radio made the world smaller. I would be listening to a game where sponsors in Cleveland were on the air in New Hampshire. It just fascinated me how radio connected people from far away places. Twitter and all it can do to bring us closer equally fascinate me.

MSX: Thanks so much. I think you're pretty good at what you do, too. I say that after listening to several sports and entertainment radio shows, so it's truly a pleasure to connect. Let me begin with the basics, and ask you where you grew up, and how/ why you got started in radio. TD: I'm originally from Brooklyn, and I moved to New Hampshire. I first went to college at the University of South Carolina, and then ended up going back to finish at the University of New Hampshire. I began to do radio when I was young and was involved with the college radio stations. I played sports, but was never good at basketball because I did not have the depth perception needed to perfect that game. I also did 'play by play' for the sports teams.

Although I love sports I didn't get into sports radio because I wanted to be involved in sports, at that point I loved broadcasting. I still do.

I ended up moving out to Nevada, and early on I covered auto racing. I was in Vegas for three years covering the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

MSX: Nice, that sounds like fun. I actually got to go in a really fast car, on that speedway about a year ago when I was a guest at Exotics Racing. I love Vegas. How did you like it there? TD: I loved Vegas. I was there for about three years, and then I followed the host I worked with out to Colorado. I did a show in Colorado, which was a lot of fun. That lead me to where I am now, which is Nashville, TN.

MSX: Tell me about your current show on Yahoo Sports Radio. TD: I am on late at night, as you know. It's different than the 'morning drive' or the 'drive home' shows I have done, because those shows center on people who are either going to or leaving work. This show is very different in that it draws people from all over who are up for various different reasons. Some folks can't sleep, some folks are working and still others are . . . . well, that's what makes it fun. They might be coming in from a party, or a date or going through a tough night. They need someone to talk to, or they happen to be listening to the show and want to express an opinion on what we're talking about. It's wide open, and I love that about this timeslot.

MSX: I love late night radio, too. I actually do a show that's on during the midnight hour on Fridays but it's not like it's on any serious network. I just use an Internet connection to be available so my followers can reach out and just know I'm real. I have found it to be a lot of fun when people call in. I used to do a show that focused on social issues in sports because that's pretty much what I tend to study and write about over at my blog, <a href="https://www.verysexysports.com">www.verysexysports.com</a> Do you mind

if I ask you about some of the social issues that have been affecting sports this past year? **TD:** Nope, not at all.

MSX: Well, what do you think is the most important social issue in sports? Let's say if you were the NFL Commish, what would you place at the top of the totem pole? **TD:** Well, honestly I don't know that they all do not deserve to be at the top, but clearly that's impossible. So let's see. It was a bit strange for me to see the NFL putting the domestic violence campaign together and having players preach to others about it, when they seem to be the ones with the issues. So while I'm not saying the NFL isn't now committed to domestic violence. I just don't really get that they are the ones who should be telling us to stop. It just seemed crazy to have the players be the ones preaching, but maybe I just didn't get that whole campaign. It seemed a bit condescending to me. I think the biggest problem I see that I might put high on the totem pole has to do with steroids. It seems they are everywhere and I have a son. What if he wanted to play baseball in today's day? Would he be forced to compete with people who are using steroids, because it seems everyone is. It is just crazy how things have changed so much.

MSX: You mentioned your were not good at sports when you were young, earlier and that's why you first got into broadcasting. Tell me why you did not play. **TD:** Yes, I didn't have the depth perception to be good. Not sure what it was, but I was never good with seeing things the way an athlete needed to. So let's say I was good. Would I be good enough, at my best or would I need to take steroids in order to even compete with those who were at a pro level. It just seems that even if a kid doesn't want to take steroids, he will have no choice if he's competing against everyone else out there who does.

MSX: Well, hopefully the professional leagues are placing this at a priority level. I know many people including, Donald Hooton, Jr. of the <a href="https://www.taylorhooton.org">www.taylorhooton.org</a> and Brian Cuban, who wrote the best selling book <a href="https://www.taylorhooton.org">Shattered Image</a> are very serious about sharing about the residual affects of anabolic steroids. I agree this is a pretty serious issue in pro sports.

TD: Yes, but don't get me wrong. I think domestic violence is really important, too. It just seems to be taking center stage, and I think there are other issues that are probably just as important. I'd like to see more focus on them.

**MSX:** Do you have any favorite teams?

**TD:** Well, I'm from New York and was there long enough to like the Yankees. Yet, then I left and grew up watching the Celtics. When it comes to football I'm a Steelers fan, and I never really had a hockey team until I moved to Nashville. That's probably because I go to live games, and I didn't go to enough Bruins games. I think hockey is a sport that is so much better live, and fans know that.

**MSX:** Why the Steelers? I mean I get the Boston connection since you were living in New Hampshire, and I get the Yankees connection but why the Steelers? **TD:** They were that good.

MSX: Enough said. Actually my brotherin-law is a huge Steelers fan, for the same
reason. They were that good. So let me
ask you about hockey. I understand what
you mean about hockey being an amazing
experience live. I love hockey and years
ago I can't say I got into it when it was on
television. Yet, it seems that now whenever
it's live on television, I'm paying attention.
I think as televisions got bigger, watching
hockey on television got to be more exciting.
TD: Makes sense, but I still think hockey
fans appreciate the game in person. Unlike
the NFL, hockey teams do not seem to lack
for fans in the arenas.

**MSX:** Hmmmm that brings up an interesting issue. I recently heard how Roger Goodell brought up the issues that the league is addressing in the 'off season' meetings while they are in Arizona. I heard that getting fans to attend games in person is still a hot topic. **TD:** Of course, nobody wants to go. It's not like the old days, because most avid fans of the NFL are now avid fans of fantasy. They do not want to sit and watch one game, the NFL Network Red Zone made it too hard to walk away from all the games. It's as though the NFL competes with itself. Why go to a game, when you'll miss all the fantasy action and the NFL is pushing fantasy, too. So I don't know why they don't have the Red Zone at the stadiums so people can get caught up, but they don't. So it's just better to watch the games on television than go to the stadium. I mean maybe the stadiums are getting a group of twenty year olds, but even they might rather be at a bar or in a man cave somewhere watching all the games and updating their fantasy leagues.

MSX: That's so interesting. I never thought about it that way. I think the NFL should have a lottery, and give away \$100K to a fan who is sitting in the stadium during a game, totally at random. Winners should be announced during the Super Bowl. I mean no disrespect

but the NFL Commissioner makes a ton of money, and I think he should give some back to the fans. So what do you happen to think about the recent issue with the young player, Chris Borland retiring so young due to fears about concussion related injuries in the NFL? **TD:** I think that the retirement is one of the most amazing things I've seen in sports because it's a proactive rational choice base on an intangible. For example, in the past people retired over injuries they had. These injuries were easily identifiable making them tangible. This decision by the 49er was made using a projection, and a possibility of a future injury. It was a very rational choice. I don't think the choice will kill the league, but I do think about the players who might not be able to retire because they might be too into the lifestyle and need to play. I wonder if these players wish they had opted out early. It might be a trend in the future, who knows? It could happen.

MSX: So do you think you would want your son to play football?

TD: I think the risk factor with the possibility of concussion related injuries gives us all something to think about.

**MSX:** Tony, thanks so much for taking time to share a little bit more about you and your show with me. My last question will be nonsports related. It will be to share with me the three people, besides your family, you would most want to have drinks or dinner with. **TD:** Well, besides Lori, Christopher and Amerly ~ my wife, son and daughter I suppose I would have to say. Frank Sinatra. Vin Scully, and Jesus. Frank Sinatra because I would love to know what it was like to live during that time. It just seems like it was a very neat time. I would like to pick Vin Scully's brain and ask him about the nostalgia of the games he's broadcasted. I mean think about it he's seen it all. He's been involved with broadcasting since before games were aired on television. Jesus, well I just would love to know what he thinks about how many people follow him.

Tony Desiere, is on the radio during the week on Yahoo Sports. He's on Twitter @ TonyDRadio. He would like to hear from you if you're up and you can't sleep, or if you're working the night shift. You can reach him at 1-800-777-2907, and find more about his show at <a href="https://www.yahoosportsradio.com">www.yahoosportsradio.com</a> if you call though, don't expect him to yell at you and treat you as though you're an idiot. That's not his thing. Tony 'D' is actually a pretty nice guy, at least that's my take on the man working the night shift, over at Yahoo Radio.



## Mancave Babe Emilia PHOTOGRAPHY BY Triola





How would you describe yourself? *I work hard and I play harder.* 

What trait do you like most about yourself? *My "YOLO" lifestyle.* 

What traits do you dislike most about yourself?

I tend to over extend myself and make to many commitments.

What do you do to stay in shape? *Sex, Running, Dancing and hitting the weights.* 

What body part (s) do you find sexiest in a man?

A hot Face and ripped abs.

What do you look for in a guy? He has to have good priorities and be able to commitment.

What turns you off in a guy? *Immaturity*.

Your favorite Superhero? *Ninja Turtles* 

What got you into modeling? *Some asked me to shoot and that's all she wrote.* 

What's your favorite car? Jeep Wrangler Sport 2 Door <u>Soft Top</u>

What's your all-time favorite movie which you would watch again and again and never get

tired of?

Friends with Benefits.

What's your favorite sport? Soccer to play, Baseball to watch.

Do you like gaming?

Has to be Nintendo, but on a rainy day I prefer Rummy.

Do you prefer a traditional romantic dinner date or do you like to hang out with the guy at a bar drinking beer, wings, shooting pool etc.?

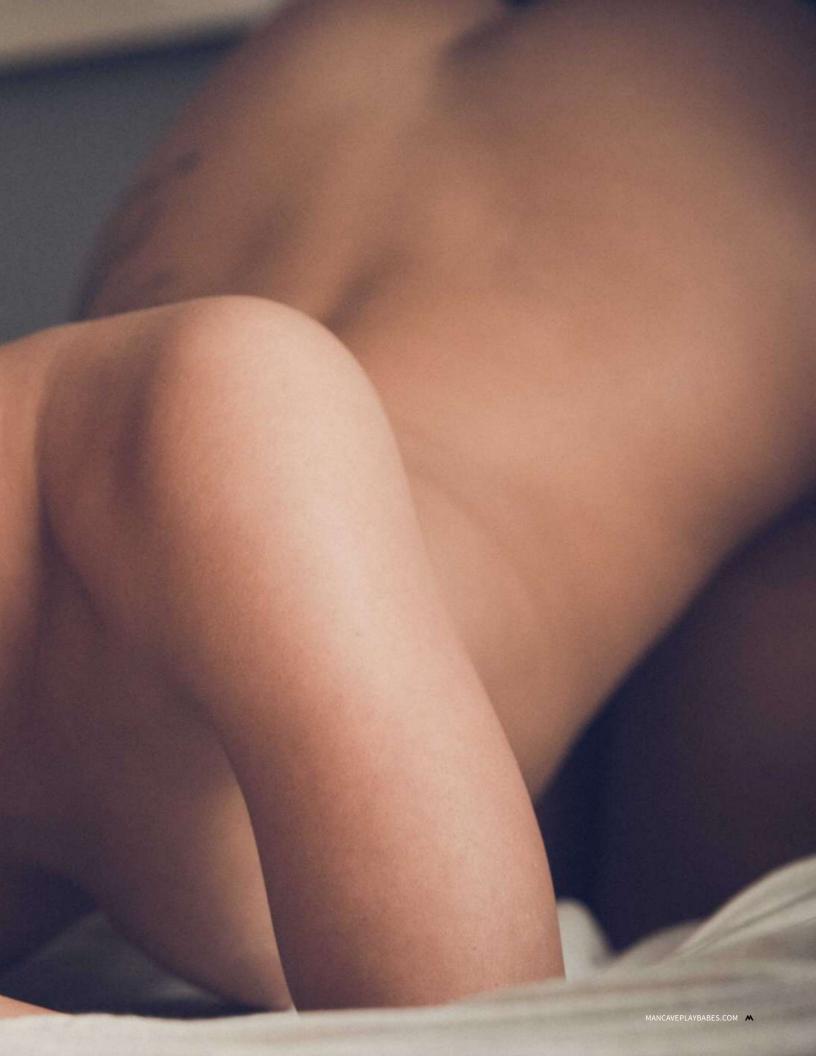
Drinking beer and eating wings is my specialty, but I look good in a dress.

What's the craziest pick up line you have ever heard?

"What's the difference between me and my couch, my couch pulls out."







## The Wine Diaries: FLORENCE, TUSCANY AND PISA TRAVEL NARRATIVE

By David Grant

#### Florence

It's early when we get on the train in Rome to go to Florence. We are also hungry and for some reason, regardless of the time of day, I will crave an Amtrak cheeseburger when I board a train. Here's a secret: If you ever crave an Amtrak cheeseburger you should probably seek help, immediately. A quick nap, rolling hills passing by, and rather quickly we arrive in Florence. Across from the train station we are greeted with a McDonald's. Interesting is that there are no Starbucks in Italy. With no hesitation or discussion we grab a taxi and travel approximately 500 feet to our hotel. Our hotel is a Best Western that has to be one of the nicest of the chain, located a stone throw from The Duomo, and complete with a rooftop terrace and nightly wine tasting.

It's still early so we leave our luggage and head to The Duomo and we grab a quick breakfast (ham and cheese sandwich for breakfast? Why Not?) and tour the inside of the chapel and do NOT wait in line to climb stairs to the top. Initial impression of Florence: Lots of tourists and lots of children. Around the corner from the Duomo area is a street with several pizzerias, including one named O' Vesuvio which is where The Jersey Shore gang is currently filming and "working". This particular day it appeared they were filming. We came to this conclusion from the shaved head security outside and the losers signing release forms in the side alley which could only look more degrading (and regrettable) if the

clipboard said Taxi Cab Confessions.

The Piazza della Signoria is where you will find replica statues, including David as well as several museums surrounding the area. We gawk and then go to La Terrazza at La Rinascente, a rooftop terrace overlooking The Duomo and city of Florence. We drink wine and eat pasta and drink a little more wine and then go back and take another look at the statues and then walk through the markets where there is a wild boar. Put a coin in the boar's mouth, if falls into the grate below you will someday come back to Florence. If not, a man comes out and cuts you with a knife. Actually that is not true; actually I don't think any of it is true. With more time to kill before our reservation to see David at Museo de Accademia we decide it is time to try this must have Gelato that we see on every corner of this city. We order a small chocolate to share. It doesn't take long to see why everyone (who isn't smoking) is eating gelato. Then it happens. The ice cream is messy so Beth reaches in her bag for a "Wet Ones" wipe to clean off the ice cream from her face and hands. Instead she grabs an OFF mosquito repellent wipe (I am allergic to mosquitoes) and wipes her hands and face. Well it doesn't take long before there is a mild allergic reaction and we are running down the street trying to find a bathroom. After stops at McDonald's, a pharmacy, and several F bombs we arrive at the museum. Here's a secret: Don't wipe your mouth with OFF! Here's another secret: Get your tickets ahead of time for a reserved time slot, or else you won't get in. We go in and take pictures of David.

Here's another secret: Pictures are not allowed, but they aren't really watching that closely. Is David as impressive as heard? It's pretty close. The features are astounding and there is a presence to this statue that is missing in others. I have yet to rank the art I have seen in my lifetime, but when I do I will definitely put David ahead of the Mona Lisa. Italy 1 France 0.

Lost again, we end up by Ponte Santa Trinita, a bridge built in 1252 that has houses built into the side and shops lining the inside. We cross, drink wine and watch birds land on tables and knock off glasses, crashing to the ground into many shards. Our dinner reservation is at a restaurant called Golden View, given because of the view of the Ponte Santa Trinita and no relation to Golden Showers. It is really a bad name for a great restaurant that pours Prosecco as you wait for you table. We enjoy excellent pasta, chicken, and vegetables along with lots of wine and a waiter who may be a little bit insane. At this point we have realized how to get back to our hotel follow the giant MARTINI sign – which is easy to remember. After dinner we walk through Piazza della Republica and drink more Prosecco and then find a small café near our hotel for one more glass of Prosecco. At this point we have cut back the attempts at the language to Gratzie and Prego (Thanks and Your Welcome) except for when drinking, continuing to rape the language, often to laughter. It is late and we have to get up early because we have a car picking us up for wine tasting in Tuscany, followed by a trip to Pisa. So we have one more glass of Prosecco.

After our diversions we are armed with now over 130lb of luggage due to increasing souvenir purchases we arrange for a taxi and he drives us 500 feet from our hotel to the train station where we are headed to Venice. Important to note that up to this point I have not seen one ponytail.

### Tuscany

Day trip through the Chianti region

Our driver is late. We are waiting in front of the Best Western pondering whether our driver, Michele, is male or female and also realizing the large number of Silver Mercedes vans that are in the area. Michele (male) shows up and begins driving fast, leaving the city of Florence. On the way he discusses Chianti wine and then drives even faster (unsure if there is a link between discussing Chianti and Italian driver arousal - hoping we don't find out). The valleys are vast with rolling hills, olive trees, and grapes. If the car is moving too fast and you miss the view, it's okay, just look again and you will see another picturesque image. After 40 minutes the Castello di Verrazzano vineyard comes into focus. It looks like a distant castle, surrounded by miles of grapes. To make sure we don't miss the start of the tour, Michele pushes down on the gas, flying around 90 degree turns with cliff like sides until we eventually navigate the winding roads into the winery area. We run (Michele may have picked a gate lock) and catch up with the tour that has just started.

The first room showcases wine they manufacture for chapels and the Vatican, Pope wine. We walk through the fermenting rooms and more cavelike areas full of barrels of mostly Chianti wine. When asked why the older barrels are more round versus the new ones more oval the answer is simply: "Because they fit through the door!" Life is simple on the vineyard. In addition to wine they make olive oil and lead us into rooms containing vintage olive oil and wine collections that have dust

that appears to date back 100 years. The tour is highlighted by the Chianti tasting that includes Chianti Classico, Chianti Classico Reserve, and Super Tuscan wines. It's before noon when we leave and are nicely buzzed already thanks to the ample tasting.

For the next 45 minutes Michele is driving fast around sharp turns while occasionally taking calls on his cell phone and checking email. The endless hills and greenery and postcard like shots appear to only change slightly each time you grab an eyeful. The second stop is Castello di Fonterutoli for more Chianti and then we are back on the road headed to San Gimigano, a medieval town that is known as medieval Manhattan because of its concrete towers. There is a quick diversion to see the Castle of Monteriggioni another small medieval area where 50 people still live today. Given the small quarters and lack of things to do it seems implausible that anyone would live there, then again, I look out into the Tuscan country and find it implausible that anyone would NOT want to live there. So I'm pretty confused. One thing we didn't count on was that drinking Chianti and then driving for long periods of time makes a person VERY tired. By the time we hit San Gimigano we are both beat as we navigate the small alley like walk ways and take pictures with the towers and sprawling Chianti region to our backs. By the time we get back to the car we are running late and Michele once again begins driving very fast, only slowing down to grab his cell phone or talk about Siena where he lives. It was no secret that our tour guide was disappointed that Siena was not on our list as well as the fact that we were trying to squeeze so much into one day. When we asked him to take us to the train station so we could catch a train to Pisa, his response? "Why

Pisa

Running late from the Tuscan road trip we run into the train terminal, hit the

"fast" something ticket machine and sprint to find the track empty, having to wait another 30 minutes for the next train that is delayed because it is a local train and regardless of the country you live in, if you have a "local" train it is always going to be delayed. Once we board it gets worse. There is no heat, the people are loud and angry and HOT, and it is looking like we are going to miss our reservation to go up into the leaning tower. As soon as the train starts, it stops. Starts again, and then stops again. It is getting darker which also means the "get a picture of the leaning tower like you are holding it up" may no longer be an option. Apparently this is not an option for Beth as she is willing the train to keep moving. Each time the train stops the conductor speaks something in Italian which leads to "Mama Mia!" chants and we can tell by the tone these are not good Mama Mia's. Going forward I will always associate the phrase "Mama Mia" with shit going down. With seemingly everything working against us the story actually has a happy ending.

The train arrives one hour late, we hop into a taxi who takes us right to the leaning tower of Pisa and accompanying Duomo that runs parallel to a large park like field and a street of restaurants. Still light out we take our "holding up the tower of Pisa" photos and then go to the ticket area to inquire about our now expired tickets. No problem, we are put into the next group where we go up into the tower and look out.

More pictures and then a quick dinner at a restaurant called the New York Café where we eat Pizza in Pisa with tower in view despite the asshole neighboring restaurant's attempt to block the view with umbrellas. Here's a Secret: Even in Pisa there are douche bags.

The train back is rather uneventful which is to say there are no Mama Mia's and we are back in Florence within an hour, clutching onto the camera containing the photos of us holding up the leaning tower of Pisa.



## / PHOTOGRAPHER SPOTLIGHT

#### W. Lawrence Stevens

Introduction: W. Lawrence Stevens is a 20 year veteran centerfold photographer whose classic glamour imagery has graced posters, billboards, calendars and national magazines like Penthouse, Gallery, Genesis, Club, among other publications. Apart from being widely published, WLS is also the Director of Photography for "FantasyOne" television which produces HD television programming for pay-per-view systems worldwide, including DISH Network, iNDemand, Time Warner, Avail/TVN and Bell Television Canada. During his career, WLS has photographed hundreds of beautiful glamour models and is known particularly for working only with all-natural subjects, excluding models with breast implants tattoos/piercings, etc. We caught up with WLS during a recent hiatus in shooting and got some insight in to what makes a successful published glamour photographer.





#### How did you first learn to shoot nudes?

While getting the basics of glamour dialed in working with my girlfriend (and her friends), I managed to meet and develop a rapport with legendary Playboy photographer Ken Marcus. Through my day job as an electronics technician with small company that created tools for pro photographers, I was able to ask Ken if he wanted to beta test a new product and he was delighted. Over the next few months I got to hang out at Ken's studio in Los Angeles and watch him work his magic with lighting, composition and gorgeous models. I also received an education about how professional equipment -- used properly -- turned a pedestrian photo into something spectacular. It was apparent that if I was ever going to up my game and become a pro, I needed to use real C-stands, boom arms, flags, scrims, grids, etc. Adding that input to my existing experience is pretty much how I developed my own style shooting centerfold style work.





#### Describe your shooting style and how you achieve the look you want.

I actually get insanely lucky mostly! But seriously, I'm really fortunate to work with very talented people such as models, makeup/stylists, crew that make me look good. All I really do is press the shutter button. So, you can geek out about equipment and technical things all day, it always starts and ends with hiring and working with quality talent and people. Along these lines, I would rank hiring great models as the key to getting the type of images I am expected to get so the credit goes to them. My thinking is if I work only with girls where it's hard to take a bad picture -- no matter how terribly I screw things up -- I'm safe. That thinking has paid off.

I also prefer experienced girls who know how to move, what's expected of them and can transition from pose to pose seamlessly and naturally. That makes my job easy. I don't have the skills to teach a new model to look seductively into the camera or how to move. And, apart from refining a pose to my liking (or to fill the frame), I expect the talent to know her assets and how to use them. I have hired stunning women with amazing bodies who didn't know how to move, communicate with the camera, or otherwise "sell" what they had naturally, and it was painful. Some photographers have the patience to work with a new girl or one who has all the right physical assets, but doesn't know how to use them. I don't.

As far as technique goes, my lighting style is very simple and predictable because I shoot on location with constantly changing lighting conditions. It has to be simple because I just don't have time on location to fuss or make mistakes. My outdoor lighting always involves at least one strobe for the key light.

(I don't use natural light because I don't trust myself and don't consider myself much of an artist anyway.) I use a medium hexagon soft box exclusively as I've found that shape and size just works best for me in every situation I encounter. I place the soft box on one side of the model and use a large white reflector on the other side for fill set about 1/2 stop lower than the key. Shooting female bodies, you want to give the viewer the experience of "feeling" her curves visually so it's important to know how to achieve soft curvature from highlight area to shadow.

I also always set up all my shots up so that I have some light source coming in from behind and above the model to create a rim light effect. That light source will either be natural sunlight, (my favorite), strobe light head on a boom arm (with a CTO gel to simulate the color of setting sun), or a large



cinematic rigid "shiny board." My ratios are always the same. My rim light is 1 stop higher than the key light, and my fill light is a half stop lower than the key. That's it basically.

As far as composition, I always try to create a feeling of space and depth in my images so that means setting up shots where there is as much distance as possible between the model and any background. As part of creating depth, I shoot with large apertures to throw the background out of focus, with the sweet spot being F6.7-8 for me. In order to create the feeling of large spaces indoors, I will literally rearrange every stick of furniture in a room until the model is as far away from any interior windows, walls or doors as possible. With the new DSLR cameras and high ISO capabilities, I am no longer using strobes indoors and instead using incandescent hot lights which mix better with ambient lighting. I have a custom 6 channel lighting board which allows me to dial in exactly what I want in terms of lighting balance. I am currently using a Nikon D3 with the 70-200 EDII lens. I only have one lens as its all I have ever needed. I don't use any filters apart from a Tiffen circular polarizing filter for outdoor work.

In terms of wardrobe, I like see-through sheer garments and I prefer to keep the model wearing something, even when she's fully undressed.

#### What is it like to have a job shooting beautiful naked women?

Well, it's a tough job, but someone's gotta do it! But seriously, it is very hard work. Our typical shooting day lasts 14-16 hours, non-stop and that's not including the day prior doing, preproduction, equipment checks and loading the truck. I describe our days as "15 hours of moving furniture" and if you ask my crew, that's how they would describe it too. And, apart from working with the models on the set, I rarely get a chance to socialize or even see the models except when they arrive in the morning and leave late at night. When it comes down to it, after you have done this sort of thing a few times, you really become somewhat desensitized to the fact you are in the presence of beautiful naked women in provocative poses. I'm also much more interested in getting my job done correctly than ogling the talent. I have been known to pay more attention and fuss about the lighting in the background, then looking at the girl. Funny but true.





How does a prospective model contact you if she wants to try out for **Penthouse or otherwise** book you?

Anyone can contact me at Steven@wlstevens.com.

#### What are your rates and do you do Testing/TF?

My commercial rates depend on the nature of the job obviously. My model portfolio rates are generally lower. I actually have never done any TFP sort of thing but if the right opportunity ever presents itself, I'd be open.

#### What software/post process do you use?

I use Adobe Light Room exclusively. It has everything a photographer could possibly need or want to professionally manage and edit a large body of work. I use it for every task necessary in my work from doing the initial edit on a shoot (where I typically come back from location with 10,000 images), to refining and correcting key images, to uploading submission galleries to my editors for consideration. It's a steep learning curve initially, but once you understand the software and what it can do for you, the program does it all. I could not function without it. Other than Light Room, I don't use Photoshop or any other post processing software. As I mentioned, my magazine editors only want RAW images from me, so extensive retouching or editing is just not something I need or want to do.

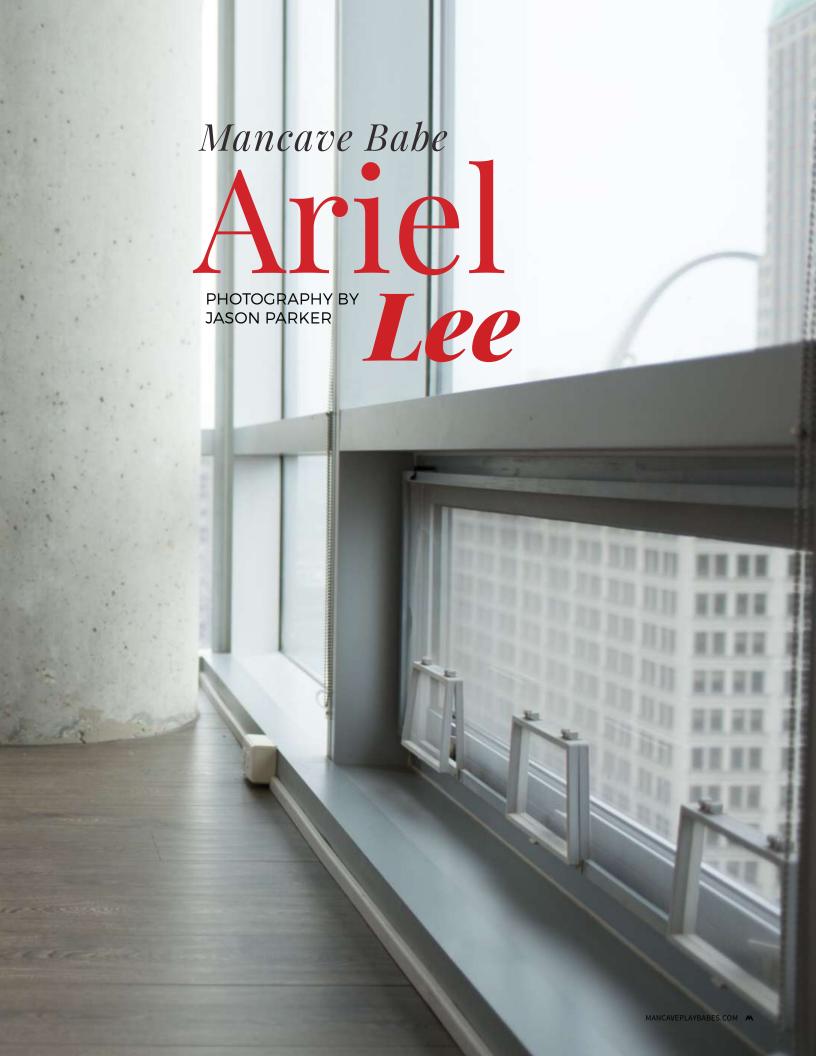
#### What advice would you give to aspiring Models?

Place only quality work in your portfolio. This means learning to tell good photography from bad which takes some discernment. Keep in mind that just because a guy with a expensive new camera says he will take your picture in your new hot bikini for free, does not mean that the result is worthy of your time or should be put in your portfolio. It's good for getting experience with in front of camera but amateur pictures will make you look like an amateur model, and that is not helpful; you need to look like a pro. If that means paying a real photographer for exceptional images, then save your pennies girls and get it done. And just because a photographer calls himself a pro (and has a fancy website), does not mean he's any good either. Look very

critically at the quality of the work and compare it to ad campaigns and advertisements that appeal to you. Understanding what makes an image professional important because your portfolio is your calling card. I see countless model portfolios containing images that are amateur. Although you would expect professional casting people to look past bad images, there's no guaranty an agency or commercial client would give the model a second look, even if she has the assets to be very successful. Casting people just don't have the time to study bad images to find a diamond in the rough. You need images that show you off at your best and make you look professional.









## ASQ

How would you describe yourself? I am independent but I aim to be a more free spirit I want to make my own hours because I want to be out on the beach playing in the sand

#### What trait do you like most about yourself?

I am satisfied with being from a family who is quite different than the average questioning the normal, not owning a TV but instead 15 chickens.

#### What traits do you dislike most about yourself?

I dislike that I often try to remain too responsible to make memories. It will happen with the right driver, on the right day with the right friends.

What do you do to stay in shape? I go to the gym and lift weights the feeling afterwards is amazing, it boosts my energy.

#### What body part (s) do you find sexiest in a man?

Men are alright I suppose, muscles don't do it for me. Women have really nice legs and of course their butts.

What do you look for in a guy? I look for a guy who is equally silly and funny.

What turns you off in a guy? I can't stand someone who is unintelligent it doesn't matter how attractive they may be.

#### Your favorite Superhero?

My favorite superhero is Ironman, I love all of the Marvel movies. I named my 2 year old pit bull Loki.

What got you into modeling?
I love all of the separate concepts of
modeling hair, make up, fashion, and
art or creativity.

#### What's your favorite car?

My future car is a Scion FRS or Subaru BRZ. It will be either black or halo white lowered on gaudy gold rims.





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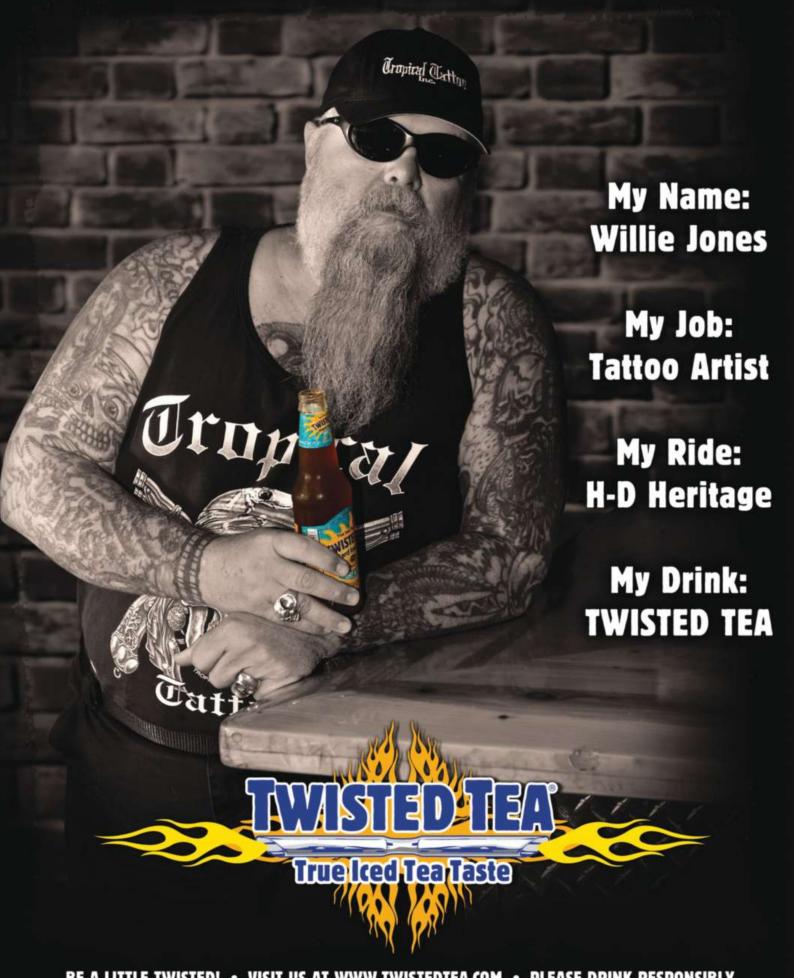
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